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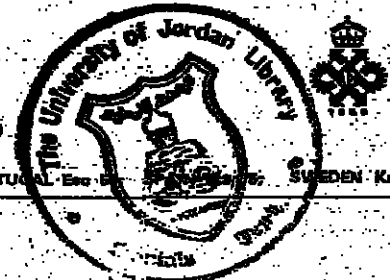
FINANCIAL TIMES

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NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL BUSINESS

Belgium poised for general election

Belgium's political crisis worsened yesterday as the country waited for a call for a general election on November 8.

Mr Willy Claes, Economic Affairs Minister in the outgoing government, advised King Baudouin that there was no possibility of repairing the coalition split. The fear is that the voting will accentuate the rivalry between Belgium's Dutch-speaking Flemish and French-speaking Walloon communities and push the Walloon community towards secession. This would destroy the 150-year-old Belgian state's unity. **Back Page**

No Times again

Threatened suspension of all 4,000 Times and Sunday Times employees was lifted but The Times was not published for the second day running. **Back Page**

Dissidents quit

Disbandment of Poland's dissident group, the Workers' Defence Committee, was announced by co-founder Professor Edward Lipinski, aged 51, at Solidarity's conference. **Page 2**

In Vienna Western bankers opened new talks about deferring repayment of \$2.4bn of Polish commercial debt.

Policeman killed

AN IRA rocket attack on a police Land-Rover killed Constable Alexander Beck, 37, and injured another policeman in West Belfast.

IRA man jailed

IRA man Robert Murphy, 23, was jailed for life yesterday after changing his plea to guilty of the manslaughter of 12 people who died in the bombing of the La Mon Restaurant.

TUC pay move

The TUC proposed a system of pay determination for the Imperial National Health Service employees aimed at reducing the need for disputes. **Page 9**

New skyship flies

Skyship 500, first of a new generation of British airships, made a successful maiden flight from Cardington, Bedfordshire. **Page 7**

Shergar retires

Dual Derby winner Shergar will not run again. The Aga Khan's great colt will not run in the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe. **Page 12**

Coe for life ban

Sebastian Coe, Britain's multiple world record holder, called for a life ban on any athlete, coach or team doctor involved in drug taking.

Polish runner dies

Bronislaw Malinowski, 30, Poland's 1980 Olympic 3,000 metres steeplechase winner, was killed in a car crash.

Top-level tipping

Business executives are particularly vulnerable to pressures leading to alcoholism and problem drinking often plays an important role in office politics a conference was told yesterday.

Up to scratch

Top academic state schools did nearly as well as fee-paying independents in examinations last year according to Education Department statistics.

Briefly...

New Zealand will hold a general election on November 28. Prime Minister Robert Muldoon said.

270 Valencia inmates joined 2,000 Barcelona prisoners in a three-day-old hunger strike.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISE	FALLS
Halibut 156 + 53	Martin, Newsagent 190 - 35
Trees 2pc 1L 2874 - 14	News Intal 85 - 8
EB 176 - 47	Prince Wales Hils 40 - 17
Bibby (J.) 210 - 34	RMC 186 - 21
Blue Circle 436 - 18	Reed 210 - 23
BH Prop 640 - 65	Royal Worcester 140 - 40
Cornell Elects 98 - 15	Saatchi and Saatchi 230 - 35
Finlay (J.) 61 - 10	Schroders 395 - 30
Glaxo 338 - 22	Textured Jersey 65 - 15
Gresham House 1652d - 33	Thorn EMI 392 - 15
Hambro Life 323 - 31	United Biscuits 98 - 9
Hasteler Estates 344 - 24	Berkeley Explor 207 - 53
Hawker Siddeley 262 - 12	Sovereign Oil 235 - 40
Hunting Assed 230 - 35	Cons Gold Fields 432d - 31
Inchcape 257 - 23	De Beers Ltd 342d - 31
Lotus Car 20 - 6	Driefontein 213d - 13
NEPC 187 - 9	Other Expln 50 - 15
	RTZ 450 - 22
	Rustenburg Plat 245 - 31
	Vaal Reefs 254 - 3
	Venterspost 550 - 110

Real oil prices may fall - Yamani

SAUDI ARABIAN Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani forecast oil prices until 1986 might fall in real terms. He hoped Opec would unify prices before the end of 1981. **Back Page**

SAUDI ARABIAN Oil Minister advised King Baudouin that there was no possibility of repairing the coalition split. The fear is that the voting will accentuate the rivalry between Belgium's Dutch-speaking Flemish and French-speaking Walloon communities and push the Walloon community towards secession. This would destroy the 150-year-old Belgian state's unity. **Back Page**

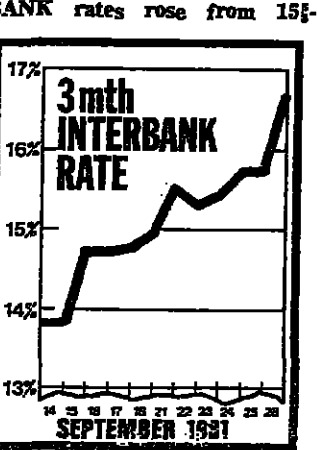
STERLING fell 60 points

to \$1.78 but rose to DM 4.1625 (DM 4.145) and FF 9.975 (FF 9.935). Its trade-weighted index was unchanged at 86.4. **Page 23**

DOLLAR rose to DM 2.335

(DM 2.321) SwFr 1.979 (SwFr 1.97) and Y232.4 (Y232.75). Its trade-weighted index was 109.7 (109.9). **Page 23**

THREE-MONTH INTERBANK RATE



WALL STREET was down

1.52 at \$22.49 near the close. **Page 23**

CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS cut its prime rate from 19 1/2 per cent to 19.

Page 23

FIAT plans to raise L200bn

(£95m) through an index-linked bond on the Milan capital market. **Page 26**

LOYD'S OF LONDON has angered Israeli banks and insurance brokers by withdrawing cover on some bank loans to the country's diamond industry.

Page 3

NIGERIA plans to build five commercial vehicle plants in the next two years with Japanese and French involvement.

Back Page

BRITISH MIDLAND Airways will extend its route network and re-enter the Mediterranean holiday flights market.

Page 7

STATE INDUSTRY board members below chairman rank want big pay rises "as a matter of urgency."

Page 8

BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS unions won support from four in five members for a one-day strike in protest over closure of the Robb Caledon yard, Dundee.

Back Page

CARRIAN INVESTMENTS of Hong Kong plans to buy property and share interests from holding company Carrian Holdings through a HK\$1.33bn (£119m) share issue.

Page 27

BEREC GROUP, fighting a \$75m bid from Hanson Trust, forecast a 40 per cent jump to \$15m in pre-tax profits for the year to February 27, 1982.

Page 22

LESNEY PRODUCTS, the toy maker, suffered pre-tax losses of \$3.87m (£5.94m) for the 24 weeks to July 12.

Page 20

Loss of confidence by smaller investors

Shares drop sharply world-wide

BY DUNCAN CAMPBELL-SMITH

A MASSIVE LOSS OF confidence among smaller investors hit the world's stock markets yesterday, sweeping share prices sharply lower in most major financial centres.

Dramatic falls in the stock exchanges of the Far East set the early pace in London, where the FT Industrial Ordinary index at noon had lost 8.2 per cent of its value against Friday night's close.

Shares recovered slightly toward the close in London with the index recording a 17.2-point fall to 437.5 on the day. This brought its cumulative decline to 85.9 points, or 17.2 per cent, in the 11 trading days since the Bank of England moved on September 14 to push interest rates higher.

The three-month sterling interbank rate rose 1/2 of a percentage point to 16 1/2 per cent by noon, and gilts fell by up to 14 in heavy early morning trading. They recovered a little in mid-afternoon but the FT Government Securities index still showed a fall of 0.66 at the close to 60.45, its lowest level since January 4, 1977.

On Wall Street the Dow Jones index opened sharply lower, but managed to recover in early trading after being 14 points down. Unrelieved pessimism in the credit markets brought Treasury bonds to a record low.

Among other market indices: Tokyo's Nikkei Dow stock market indicator lost 302.54 to 7,037.12, the steepest one-day drop in its history, bringing its decline to more than 1,000 points since the index reached its all-time peak in August.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index closed down 105.75 points at 1,245.26, its biggest drop since April 1973. It now stands at its lowest level since last December, having reached a new high only two months ago.

Australian shares fell across the board, with all major indices at their lowest levels this year, and the Sydney stock market Australian All Ordinaries down almost 20 points to 563.5.

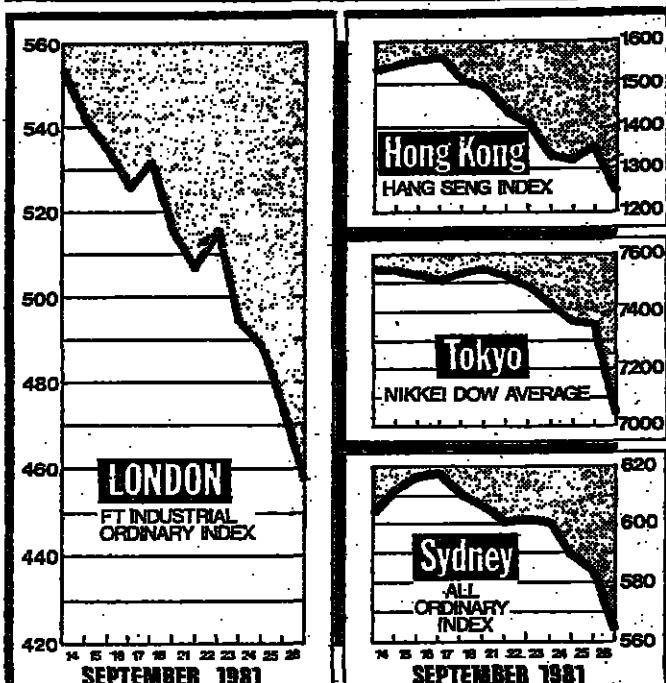
Singapore's Straits Times index fell 15.23 to 650.81, despite a shake-out in July and August which had already cut the index's value by nearly a third.

Sharp falls were recorded on the stock markets in Paris, Frankfurt, Basle, Zurich and Amsterdam.

Eurobonds were affected by the general mood, with some new issues marked down as much as two points in the dollar sector.

Trading in the dollar secondary market lowered prices by about one point generally, and left five-year bonds yielding up to one point more than the 16 1/2 per cent available on five-year Eurodollar deposits.

On the London stock market the news from the Far East only confirmed a widespread despondency prompted by



SLIDE HITS NEW ISSUES

BY IAN RODGER

THE SLIDE in share prices is seriously upsetting the new issue market.

Yesterday it was revealed that Trusthouse Forte's \$27m rights issue, which closed last Friday, was less than three-quarters subscribed. Other big rights issues still open, including those from John Brown, BICC and Morgan Crucible, are also looking vulnerable following significant declines in their share prices.

This week's scheduled flotation of Habitat, the home furnishings group, may not be as popular as hoped. Others in the planning stages, including Cable and Wireless, the Government-owned international telecommunications group, and money brokers Astley and Pearce, may have to be postponed unless markets improve.

THE shares held up fairly

well last week but then fell below the 112p rights price on Friday afternoon. However, 71.4 per cent of the 77.5m new shares were taken up. Yesterday the hotel and catering company's shares fell a further 2p to 107p.

Morgan Crucible's \$10.3m rights issue, which closes tomorrow, is looking very shaky. The furnace components and thermal products group's shares fell 12p yesterday to 92p, well below the 107p price on the rights shares.

The \$60.5m rights offer from cable-makers BICC closes on Friday and the shares, at 219p yesterday, are slightly below the 225p rights price. Engineering group John Brown's shares at 84 1/2p are also below the 76p price on the shares in its £24.9m rights issue, but the offer does not expire until October 13.

By noon the FT Industrial Ordinary Index was off 22.4 at 445.3. Jobbers and brokers waited fearfully for Wall Street's opening, mindful of one much-discussed pundit's prophecy that it would be the market's worst day on record.

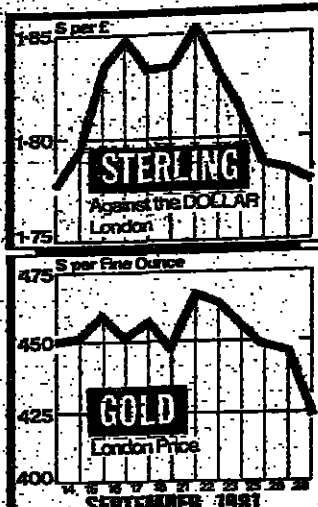
While many leading stocks continued on Back Page

Lex, Back Page

Editorial comment and feature, Page 18

Barclaycard interest rate up, Page 8

World stock markets, Page 28



Gain by dollar—gold falls

By Anatole Kalchay and John Edwards

THE DOLLAR strengthened against all major currencies yesterday and the price of gold fell \$23.50 from Friday's London closing level to \$423 an ounce.

Dealers were responding to indications from the Eurodollar market and the International Monetary Fund conference in Washington that interest rates may remain high in the U.S. for some time to come.

The decision by Continental Illinois Bank of the U.S. to reduce its prime rate from 19 1/2 per cent to 19 per cent, the first cut to 19 per cent to be made by a major bank, did not

Continued on Back Page

Money markets, Page 23

Commodities, Page 29

Further Labour conflict ahead as Benn presses on

BY RICHARD EVANS AND ELINOR GOODMAN

THE PROSPECT of conflict in the Labour Party was renewed yesterday when Mr Tony Benn signalled his determination to press ahead with his campaign for conference decisions to be implemented.

But his narrow defeat by Mr Denis Healey in the contest for the deputy leadership has opened up a new split within the Labour Left, and presented Mr Benn with acute tactical problems.

The party conference in Brighton passed a fiercely left-wing economic resolution against the advice of the leadership, moderate MPs were still looking for further evidence that the tide has finally turned in their favour. The resolution called for an immediate 35-hour working week without loss of earnings, additional holidays, and control of the export of capital.

There was no indication from

the major economic debate that the grip of the Left had been weakened.

Mr Healey received a lukewarm response to his call for party unity. Mr Benn received a rapturous reception when he renewed his demand for more accountability to the conference from the Parliamentary leadership.

Mr Benn's theme was that attacks on Mrs Thatcher's policies—such as the one mounted by Mr Healey yesterday—were empty rhetoric unless they were mirrored by the policies advocated by the conference, and by a commitment of a future Labour Government to implement those policies.

The battle between Left and Right for control of the Labour Party will continue unabated both on policy issues and on constitutional reform. One key decision to be taken this week is on the drafting of the man-

ifesto which the Left wants put firmly into the hands of the National Executive Committee.

Mr Benn will leave open for some time his option on whether to challenge Mr Healey again next year. Many of his closest advisors believe he should fight for the deputy leadership again because of the narrowness of his defeat. They regard his poll of 49.5 per cent as a moral victory.

But Mr Benn is already coming under strong pressure from Left-wing MPs not to stand. There are signs that the loose alliance of groupings of the Left, which have provided so much support for him, is coming apart.

The problem is that on the evidence of fringe meetings at Brighton it will be extremely difficult to stop the Left-wing bandwagon. Activists in the

Continued on Back Page

Conference reports, Page 10

UK backing for \$ intervention

BY DAVID MARSH

BRITAIN APPEARS to be moving into line with other EEC countries in opposing the U.S. Government's policy of leaving the dollar's exchange rate to be determined purely by market forces.

Following the pound's latest bout of weakness, British Treasury officials gathered in Washington for the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Talk more favourably than a few months ago about the benefit of "smoothing" intervention on the currency markets to curb sharp fluctuations.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, did however make it clear at last week's meeting of Common-wealth Finance Ministers in Nassau, that he remains opposed for the money to sterling's entry into the European Monetary System.

The general feeling in Europe in favour of some intervention in the markets is in sharp contrast to the position of the U.S.

The Americans have intervened only once on the day of the assassination attempt on President Reagan—since the new policy of leaving the dollar to the markets was formulated early this year.

Mr Beryl Sprinkel, Treasury Under-Secretary for Monetary Affairs, said at the weekend this policy will not change, in spite of the dollar's recent easing. Any Treasury commitment to intervene and buy or sell dollars would increase the uncertainty of foreign exchange traders and be counter to the U.S. aim of building "deep markets".

In his address to the IMF's policy-making interim committee at the weekend, Sir

Geoffrey, speaking on behalf of the EEC, said that Britain currently stands united for an "integrated dialogue" with the U.S. and other countries over currencies and interest rates.

Signalling a growing content with France on these issues, M Jacques Delors, the French Finance Minister, told the Finance Ministers' said it was "very good" that Sir Geoffrey had spoken out about high interest rates and erratic currency movements.

He was pleased and surprised that Britain had shown support for a World Bank emergency facility, something the U.S. opposes and on which Britain has previously been lukewarm.

M Delors said France would persist in its proposals to increase the European Currency Unit's role in EEC monetary co-operation. He was in favour of Britain joining the EMS.

Trudeau 'not tied by convention'

BY JIM MCKIN IN OTTAWA

THE CANADIAN Supreme Court ruled yesterday that the plans of Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, to end Westminster's right to amend the Canadian constitution and to enact a Bill of Rights contravene constitutional convention.

The court voted 6-3 there was a constitutional convention Canada would not forward for Westminster approval constitutional resolutions affecting the 10 provinces' powers without obtaining the provinces' prior agreement.

By 7-2, however, the Justices found there was no binding legal requirement on the Federal Government to follow that convention.

The 168-page ruling has therefore come down on both sides of the constitutional divide along which Canada has been

split since last October. It was then Mr Trudeau decided to proceed unilaterally, having failed to win over the provinces to his plan.

Canadians refer to the plan as "patriating" the constitution. This means giving their own institutions the right to change the rules according to which Canada is governed.

Because they have not been able to agree precisely how this should be done the practice has been for Westminster to pass amendments on Canadian request.

Generally it has been a matter of routine but in this instance all the provinces apart from Ontario and New Brunswick have fought tooth and nail against Mr Trudeau's proposals. They are afraid that his package will diminish their own rights. Their opposition has

found some support in the British Parliament.

The Supreme Court accepted the federal argument that the British North America Act 1867 did not require provincial consent before a constitutional resolution was forwarded to Westminster.

It agreed with the dissenting provinces however that past practice had been to obtain provincial approval for changes affecting provincial rights.

The court ruled unanimously that the current constitutional resolution affected provincial rights by imposing the Bill of Rights, which would limit the provinces' legislative authority, and an amending formula, which would define their constitutional powers.

The ruling has left both sides in Canada claiming victory. Editorial comment, Page 18

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		Weather	34
		World Trade News	34
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EUROPEAN NEWS

Mitterrand offers cautious backing to Saudi peace plan

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS

PRESIDENT François Mitterrand of France gave cautious backing yesterday to the Saudi Arabian peace plan for the Middle East, saying that it constituted a "useful point of departure" for a negotiated settlement of the problem. He made it clear, however, that disagreements remained over several details.

The President was commenting after a two-day visit to Riyadh in which he appears to have bridged successfully the gap which threatened to open up between the two countries in the wake of the election victory last May. Speaking at a Press conference yesterday, both Mitterrand and Crown Prince Fahd, the author of the two-month old peace plan, emphasised the spirit of co-operation in which the talks had been conducted.

While no official communiqué was issued after the visit, President Mitterrand has clearly used the occasion to show that the Socialist Government in France was not swinging unequivocally towards a pro-Israeli policy.

He put the emphasis instead on France's mediating role in the region, saying that he would not abandon his friendship with Israel, but would use the same language to the Israelis as he had to the Saudi Government.

At the same time, President

Mitterrand's support for the Fahd plan has effectively obliterated earlier commitments to the Camp David process which the Saudis find unacceptable.

Although both sides avoided direct reference to their points of disagreement, the French have made it clear that the main problem lies over the status of Jerusalem, which would become the capital of a Palestinian state under the Fahd plan.

The impact of the French stance over the peace plan, which advocates the creation of a Palestinian state and the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories, should become clearer during President Mitterrand's visit to Israel next January.

But in the meantime Mitterrand appears to have stabilised the political base for the development of the important commercial links between the two countries.

France is now highly dependent on Saudi Arabia both as an oil supplier and as a market for its armaments and construction industries. It was partly the fear of a major breach between the two countries on the commercial front that led the French Government to choose Saudi

Arabia as the first official overseas visit.

£1bn worth of exports expected from N-industry

BY OUR PARIS STAFF

FRANCE'S nuclear industry should run up exports worth about FF10bn (£1bn) a year during the whole of this decade. The industry will also raise the number of direct jobs it provides from 150,000 to 200,000, and could be saving the equivalent of FF50bn a year on fuel imports by 1990.

These estimates are among the main conclusions of a report on the nuclear industry produced by the French Atomic Energy Committee, an inter-departmental government organisation.

In making a strong case for continuing the present atomic energy programme, the report will provide ammunition for the pro-nuclear forces in the Government and Parliament. It comes only a fortnight before the National Assembly is due to debate energy policy and the contribution nuclear power should make to energy production.

Construction work on five nuclear sites is forecast as part of the Socialist Government's commitment to slow down the expansion of the industry until

the question is fully debated. But there are signs that the Government is not in favour of drastic permanent cuts, despite pressure from the strong anti-nuclear element in the Socialist Party and the ecological movement.

Apart from the favourable impact on the balance of payments and employment, the committee argues that nuclear energy is much cheaper than the alternatives. Last year, it says, nuclear stations were producing 1.5 kilowatt hours of energy for 16.5 centimes, compared with 28 centimes for oil and 38 centimes for coal.

In addition, France has secure supplies of uranium, with sufficient stocks for five years compared with a few months for the oil industry.

The committee adds that the nuclear industry has a good record on safety, comparing favourably with alternative forms of energy. But it admits that the industry needs stronger public approval, and says that a big effort at information and explanation should be undertaken.

More violent terrorism ahead, says Dutch official

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

FURTHER GROWTH in acts of terrorism and an increase in the violence used are forecast by an eminent Dutch psychiatrist. The poor state of the world economy and a society structured to alienate the individual provide fertile ground for an increase in terrorist activity, Dr Dick Mulder, a Government psychiatrist, says in "People involved in hostage-taking," published yesterday.

Dr Mulder led the government negotiating teams in a number of protracted hostage-taking incidents staged by South Moluccan extremists during the 1970s. Co-authors of the book are three university psychologists who were involved in treating the victims of the South Moluccans' actions.

The failure of previous acts of terrorism to achieve significant results means that potential terrorists are now looking for new methods of achieving an effect. The present period of calm will probably be succeeded by even more extreme forms of action, Dr Mulder says.

A particular danger is likely to be presented by the charismatic leaders of religious sects who use modern methods to recruit followers. Sect members are frequently robbed of their personality and lose their individual identity—a process which closely corresponds to what can happen within terrorist groups.

Women will also probably play a greater part in acts of terrorism than men and can be expected to be more cruel in their treatment of victims and more resolute in sticking to the aims which they have set themselves, Dr Mulder says.

To prevent minority groups

Russia 'will consult Malta'

THE Soviet Union is said to have agreed to consult Malta on what steps should be taken in the event of the island's neutrality being threatened, writes our Valletta Correspondent.

This was claimed by Mr Dom Mintoff, the Maltese Premier,

such as the Moluccans from resorting to terrorism, the understanding and tolerance of the local community is required. This can achieve more than the activities of the authorities or of politicians.

Dr Mulder advises against keeping kidnappers a secret from the press. Where the motive is criminal a publicity clamp-down works to the advantage of the kidnappers, he said. The authorities should keep the Press as informed as possible to prevent the growth of rumours.

The victims of hostage-taking and their families require quick and intensive help once they have been released, according to Dr W. van Dijk, Professor of Psychiatry at Groningen University. All the victims of the Moluccan actions complained of after-effects, including fear, difficulty in sleeping and physical ailments.

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Opposition outrage at FitzGerald proposals

BY STEWART DALRY IN DUBLIN

TO JUDGE by the intensity of the barrage which has greeted Dr. Garret FitzGerald's statement that he would like to change the Irish constitution to make reunification more attractive to the Protestant community in Northern Ireland, one would think he had invited Dr. Ian Paisley to become Prime Minister of All Ireland.

Mr Charles Haughey, leader of the main opposition party, Fianna Fail, replied to the Prime Minister's weekend statement with the words: "His statements are hysterical, unbalanced and destructive to the entire national interest in regard to Northern Ireland."

Yet, in essence, all Dr. FitzGerald has said, both in his radio interview at the

weekend and in an earlier newspaper interview, is that there are elements of the republic's national identity as enshrined in its constitution of 1937 which make it anathema to the Protestant majority in the north. Thus it virtually ensures that those Protestants will not want to sever links with Britain and become a minority in the republic.

Dr. FitzGerald suggested that articles two and three of the constitution be amended and that something might possibly be done about the prohibition of divorce. He has not touched on the delicate issue of abortion which, like divorce, is not available in the republic, and has been oblique about the confused situation over con-

traception. Contraceptives, though widely used, are in theory only available on prescription for bona fide family planning purposes.

Articles two and three of the constitution are those which deal with the republic's claim to hold sovereignty over all 32 counties of Ireland, including the six which make up the current Ulster state.

A quick glance at Dr. FitzGerald's personal and political background explains why he is making his statements. His mother's family are Ulster Protestants. He has spent more time in Ulster than most Irish politicians and he feels, rightly or wrongly, that he can speak to Protestants in a way that his predecessor, Mr. Haughey, cannot.

Dr. FitzGerald leads Fine Gael, the party which is the descendant of the one which accepted the Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921, which partitioned Ireland into two states. Fianna Fail is a descendant of the group which never accepted the principle of the division of Ireland.

Dr. FitzGerald feels strongly that the constitution which Fianna Fail introduced in 1937 is a sectarian one. With its claim to all 32 counties and its theological undertones the constitution as it now stands will forever alienate the Protestant community in the north, Dr. FitzGerald believes.

While it is thought that Dr. FitzGerald believes that the constitution should be

changed in the hope that Protestants would then favour closer ties with the republic, his chances of achieving change at this time seem slim.

His coalition Government enjoys a thin majority in the 166-seat Dail (Parliament). He depends on the support of a handful of capricious independents to stay in power. Fianna Fail would strenuously oppose any changes as would the Catholic Church.

Over 95 per cent of Ireland's population is Catholic and a referendum—would probably be required to make the changes.

Given the heavy legislative programme that Dr. FitzGerald wants to push through in the next few months and given



Mr Charles Haughey: main interests at stake

his small parliamentary majority, he might well see that discretion is the part of valour and leave institutional changes until more propitious times.

Solidarity told dissident group will disband

BY CHRISTOPHER BOBINSKI

POLAND'S longest-established dissident group, the Workers' Defence Committee (KOR), is to be disbanded. The decision was announced to delegates at the Solidarity union's congress in Gdansk yesterday by Professor Edward Lipinski, the 93-year-old economist and co-founder of the group.

The congress also heard a speech by Mr. Zbigniew Dudziak, one of the founders of a movement to set up a trade union in Poland's police force. Mr. Dudziak said his group "demanded that the police should not be used to put down working-class protests and that conflicts in society should be resolved through dialogue and not by force."

The KOR group was set up to organise financial and legal aid for workers who suffered as a result of demonstrations against food price rises in the summer of 1976. It underwent extreme harassment at the

hands of the police and its members were arrested many times.

Since the foundation of Solidarity the group has all but suspended its activities but it nevertheless became a prime target of Soviet propaganda as "an antisocialist force." Both the Polish and Soviet authorities are concerned at the influence some KOR activists like Mr. Jacek Kuron enjoy in the union.

Prof. Lipinski said that KOR's task was finished but its ideals would be continued by Solidarity.

Mr. Dudziak, who like many other activists of the police-men's union has been sacked for his efforts, called on Solidarity to support his union's application for official recognition.

The movement started, he said, on May 26 this year and a national meeting was held in Warsaw on June 1 with 2,000

delegates representing some 40,000 policemen. Policemen, he said, wanted to establish a good reputation in the eyes of society. "Policemen have no privileges. We have housing problems and stand in queues like everyone else."

"We are not slaves who have no rights," he said of the authorities' refusal to recognise his union. The policemen held a short strike in Warsaw last week when the district court postponed a hearing of their case.

Congress delegates yesterday received a draft of Solidarity's programme prepared by a working group and based on discussions held by delegates over the past few weeks. Radicals will be working over the next few days to remove the more conciliatory passages in the document which backs economic reform, urges a cautious economic recovery programme

and calls for far-reaching but ill-defined political changes.

The draft calls for free local council elections but leaves vague the issue of elections to Parliament. Phrases in the draft like "a sense of national responsibility demands that we respect the political situation in a referendum on the issue: Rationing should be kept in force for some time."

The draft approves the notion of gradual price increases for consumer goods but only after Solidarity members have voted in a referendum on the issue. Rationing should be kept in force for some time.

The draft says that Poland should explore the possibility of re-entering the international Monetary Fund but says nothing about the need for Poland to increase exports, an unpopular issue at the moment.

Spy exchange reports unconfirmed in Bonn

BY OUR BONN CORRESPONDENT

THE WEST GERMAN Government may be preparing to release Herr Gunter Guillaume, the East German spy who was a senior aide to Chancellor Willy Brandt in the 1970s.

According to reports from Madrid, where West Germany's President, Herr Karl Carstens, is on an official visit, the President yesterday signed a document pardoning Herr Guillaume. But the President has refused to say anything about the case and officials in Bonn have also declined comment.

As a result, newspaper reports—the first Press speculation about an impending release occurred several weeks ago—have gone from strength to strength. The latest and most ambitious appeared, unsourced, in the conservative Welt am Sonntag, and suggested

that Herr Guillaume was to be released as part of a huge East-West exchange of prisoners.

Herr Guillaume, who was sentenced to 15 years' jail in 1975, would, according to this account, be joined by a small number of fellow East German agents in an exchange deal for 35 West Germans imprisoned in the East.

Some 3,000 East Germans would also be allowed to emigrate to West Germany, albeit in return for a cash payment from Bonn, as has long been the informal practice. Other East bloc agents would be released by France, Denmark and South Africa.

The fact that the Bonn Government has neither denied nor confirmed the reports has given the impression that something is being hatched. But a number of factors also seem to

point against a large scale spy exchange.

Herr Guillaume would soon qualify for parole in the normal way, so it is not clear why a presidential pardon should be required. There is no obvious reason why other countries apart from East and West Germany should be involved in any way. Finally, Bonn would be reluctant to link the release of Herr Guillaume to the emigration of 3,000 East Germans who, under the Helsinki Agreement, should be allowed to rejoin their families in the West as a matter of right rather than of barter.

However, Herr Guillaume's release would certainly help clear the atmosphere before the expected meeting between Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Herr Erich Honecker, the East Ger-

man leader. The two men are expected to hold talks, following several postponed meetings, some time after Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, has visited Bonn in late November.

Herr Guillaume has symbolic importance in West Germany. He was a close personal aide of Herr Brandt during the most sensitive years of Ostpolitik and the discovery that he was an East German agent inflamed criticism of the conciliatory policy.

It also undermined Herr Brandt's credibility as a world statesman and forced his resignation. In Bonn it has been accepted for some time that Herr Guillaume could only be released if Herr Brandt, who is now chairman of the ruling Social Democratic Party, approved the move.

Italy threatens EEC disruption over wine

BY JOHN WYLES IN BRUSSELS

ITALY threatened yesterday to disrupt the work of European Community agriculture councils if France did not stop hindering its wine exports. France, said Sig. Giuseppe Bartolomei, the Italian Agriculture Minister, was guilty of "psychological terrorism."

His threat, and a counter-complaint by a French Minister that Italian "verbal terrorism" was offending his country's dignity, set the tone for several unusually violent exchanges between the two Ministers which highlighted the smouldering resentments and fears about the growth of protectionism in EEC agriculture.

France was in the dock for blocking Italian wine imports, Britain for banning poultry

imports through an abrupt change in its domestic poultry health regulations and the Netherlands for allowing its glasshouse producers an unfair advantage by supplying them with low-priced gas for heating.

None of these issues was carried far towards a solution. But the presence outside the Council of Ministers building of 500 demonstrators demanding action on the Dutch glasshouse question may have helped to concentrate ministerial minds.

After hearing a succession of complaints against the Netherlands, including a warning from West Germany's Herr Josef Ertl, that the issue would be settled in the streets rather than around the negotiating table, the European Commission promised to take firm

action against the Netherlands unless The Hague was ready to make concessions.

Although he would not be specific, Mr. Poul Dalsager, the Agriculture Commissioner, promised that he would act to remedy the situation if his talks on Friday with the Dutch Farm Minister failed to resolve the problem.

He agreed with the majority of Ministers that a Netherlands promise to sign its glasshouse gas prices with industrial gas prices by April, 1984, was not good enough.

British glasshouse producers claim that Dutch flowers and vegetables are enjoying a 40 per cent price advantage in Britain and that one third of the 26,000 jobs in the British industry are threatened.

Meanwhile, any prospect of a ceasefire in the wine war faded when it became clear that Mme. Edith Cresson, France's Farm Minister, was not going to attend the meeting. Sig. Giuseppe Bartolomei, for Italy, complained bitterly that France was still holding up imports of 1m hectolitres of Italian wine and he gave a warning that Italian restraint must not be interpreted as weakness.

Italy would have to consider whether to continue to collaborate with the Council, he said, and this remark was interpreted as a threat to block decisions at future meetings. As a foretaste, he refused to take part in discussion of a French memorandum on possible changes to the EEC's wine regime.

Leslie Colitt in Bucharest examines the waning popularity of Romania's leader

Why Ceausescu is no longer regarded as infallible

SIXTEEN YEARS after Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu came to power as Romania's Communist leader and President and successfully challenged Moscow's right to give orders to Bucharest, he remains in total command of the most tightly controlled country in Eastern Europe.

However, the attitudes of Romanians toward their leadership are changing as economic and political frustrations mount.

Lengthening food queues and the waning of the Soviet threat to Romania have produced a level of popular discontent not felt for decades. President Ceausescu is no longer regarded as infallible.

The most charitable explanation is that the President has fallen victim to bad counsel from his aides. The more sophisticated critics see the root of the problem in the cult of personality which surrounds him. Under these conditions all strive to tell the President what they believe he wants to hear. His Ministers and advisers know from experience that one of

their functions is to act as scapegoats if and when things go wrong.

Although sporadic strikes erupted earlier this year in several Romanian factories over working conditions and poor food supplies, they were quickly localised. Leaders of a serious coal miners strike in the Jiu Valley in 1977 were arrested and have never been heard from again. Organisers and members of a free Romanian trade union were swiftly arrested and sentenced to prison.

But opposition to President Ceausescu has never been organised. Instead there is a constant drain of Romanian intellectuals who refuse to return home after being permitted to travel to the West.

The Romanian leader also faces no opposition from within his Party, as he has removed anyone who even remotely appears to be a rival.

The leadership is taking no chances in ensuring that the 23m Romanians will continue to remain submissive. As supplies of foodstuffs dwindle

in the cities and the outlook for the winter is bleak, fully armed Romanian soldiers stand guard at all important public buildings.

While most Romanians remain devoted to President Ceausescu, they no longer regard him as infallible. Increasingly they feel he has fallen victim to bad counsel from his aides.

The President periodically reinforces this impression by firing top officials thought to have gained his confidence. This happened recently when the heads of Romanian Radio and Television, the Agriculture Ministry and the Central Council of Workers Control were dismissed.

While the Ministry of Agriculture was still blaming a drought for this year's poor harvest, Mr. Ceausescu said it was "not a lack of rain but a lack of responsibility and capable organisation" of farming which had led to the third successive bad harvest.

While blaming the Ministry of Agriculture in situations like this, the President at other



Nicolae Ceausescu: advisers double as scapegoats

times gives the impression that nothing in this country is decided without his approval.

Mr. Ceausescu's attention to the most minute details of Romanian life is legendary.

Recently he visited a well stocked food market in Bucharest and surrounded by smiling sales personnel and shoppers who assured him that everything was being done to get food to the consumer.

The visit was the main item on the evening television news, photos and long accounts appeared on the front pages of all Romanian newspapers.

The populace, which has been queuing up for even the poorest quality meat and sausage as well as cooking oil and other essentials, reacted with astonishment. But instead of blaming the President for this obvious deception, some Romanians said he had been hoodwinked by his advisers.

"They packed the market with food which otherwise doesn't exist," explained a Bucharest textile worker. "They don't want to let our President know how poor conditions are."

A Romanian waiter said it was difficult for President Ceausescu to learn what the "real situation" is as there are so many officials "between him and the people."

Jokes are told in which the President invariably is the victim of his own population

which is depicted as being ready to steal, cheat and lie. But there are also Romanians who reveal their political views by saying they do not care to discuss politics and there are a growing number of younger Romanians who express their feelings through political anecdotes.

One story has President Ceausescu visiting a pig farm in Western Europe where he is shown a sow which produces 28 piglets. He orders the sow to be brought back to Romania where the first litter produces but one piglet.

The swineherd not wishing to pass this distressing news to his superior, says that three piglets were born. The superior in turn tells the director of the state farm that six piglets were born and this escalation continues up to the Minister of Agriculture who is told of the birth of 24 piglets.

When President Ceausescu is told that the sow produced 36 healthy piglets, he orders: "One of the piglets should be exported. The other should remain for the domestic market."

Olympic problems aired but not solved

By Roger Boyes in Bonn

THE OLD Moscow boycott of the Olympic congress in Bay Baden at the weekend ill-parade of tired war veteran "The Games," concluded European delegates, "she be left to the politician the only true amateurs."

Understandably the congress convened to discuss the future of the Games including the role of commercialised sports was more concerned with bitter retrospectives of brave new horizons.

Sir Denis Follows, of British National Olympic Committee, pointed out that 30 countries had boycotted the Moscow games in 1976. About 80 had boycotted the Moscow games. If it went like this, the Olympics appeared altogether.

The Moscow boycott clearly opened up wounds in movement and the next game in Los Angeles in 1984 already causing sleepless nights within the hierarchy. The African nations hunt in Baden-Baden that a free boycott might be on the cards following the South Africa Springboks' tour of the United States. As that threat recedes during the course of the talk a new problem emerged—that of television rights.

According to unofficial estimates, the European Broadcasting Union, grouping most West European television channels is being asked \$175m (£94m) for the broadcasting rights from Los Angeles. The West German television companies estimate that they will be asked pay about \$50m of that bill an impossibility, according to Herr Hannes Groth, a principal German co-ordinator. Meanwhile a sum of about \$175m is also being asked.

Intervention, the East European television union. The seemed little doubt in Baden-Baden last week that the Europeans would be unable to raise even a fraction of that sum. That in turn raised the question of whether it worthwhile, in propaganda terms, for the East Europeans to compete if they are unable to beam back pictures of triumphant Socialist athletes.

The congressional combining of militaries and delegates from 147 countries, raised a number of questions but gave no answers, as if the side process of asking questions could heal the rifts in the movement. The issue of the rows were:

• Amateurism: The East insisted that the establishment of amateur status be maintained. West German and other suggested that way could be found through athletes sufficient means carry out full-time training while stopping short of full scale professionalism. Delegates discussed the idea allowing athletes to receive money from advertising in other forms of sponsorship that would then be paid back to the athletes.

• There was broad agreement that sportsmen should be free from the games, possibly life. But it was not clear if gradual drug use during training could be controlled.

• The question of stadium for the Olympic Games per se was much in the air. Because of that countries lack of infrastructure, it was dropped.

• In an attempt to take some of the propaganda out of the Olympics, a number of West European delegates suggested abolishing national flags and the singing of national anthems. This was opposed by Third World delegations who argued that after fighting hard for independence some countries would rather not compete than have their national achievements muted.

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Israeli anger at Lloyd's curb on diamond cover

By DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

ISRAELI BANKS and insurance underwriters "suffered losses in excess of what they expected" and that is why they pulled out, He estimated that the main banks were insured for about \$300m (£180m) in trust certificates.

He estimated that the total losses to underwriters was about \$15m. Mr Levy said he did not know of any current claims against the insurers, but he suspected that the banks may experience considerable delays in payment of the insurance money for the dishonoured trust certificates.

Underwriters at Lloyd's have centralised their legal advice on the matter with one law firm. Lloyd's is understood not to be cancelling its cover totally but intended to phase out the cover over six months.

It immediately wanted to reduce the token cover of \$5m starting from the first month, which represented virtually a full cancellation, given the overall size of the insured risk.

Lloyd's underwriters insure practically all of the diamond business in Israel and is still continuing with its insurance of stocks.

John Moore in London adds: Lloyd's underwriters have been alarmed in the last year about the rising level of claims on the class of business which they are now seeking to curb.

Losses have been out of all proportion to the volume of business which they have carried. Fears are growing in London that the volume of doubtful claims may be rising on this class of business.

The international insurance stage is set for another round of protracted transnational litigation over the latest dispute.

The difficulties being experienced by the Israeli diamond industry and the collapse of a number of companies in Israel have caused Lloyd's to inform the brokers and banks that it intended to sharply reduce the amount it would underwrite from June this year, and that this amount of cover would be gradually reduced to zero over six months.

The cover which was effectively withdrawn was for the 10-day trust certificate which diamond manufacturers sign when they withdraw rough gems from bank vaults to cut and polish them.

The standards are usually deposited with the banks as security for loans given to the diamond merchants when purchasing the stone.

It is understood that underwriters pulled out of this class of insurance business at short notice.

The general manager of one bank accused the insurance companies of "getting cold feet".

The deputy general manager of another bank said that the banks are considering litigation over the delay by underwriters in paying some of their claims.

Mr Uri Levy, chief executive of Huh Insurance Agencies of Tel Aviv, one of the main brokers for diamond insurance in Israel and a subsidiary of Bank Leumi, the largest banking group in the country, said

Ayatollahs make most of latest 'victory'

By Terry Povey in Tehran

IRAN'S leaders were yesterday making the most of their apparent Gulf War victory over Iraqi forces besieging the oil refining centre of Abadan and the coincidental weekend Tehran street battles with left wing Mojahedin rebels.

In the Tehran press, accounts of what is described as the "biggest victory" in the year-old Gulf War appeared side by side with



claims that the People's Mojahedin Organisation, which is leading the armed campaign against the fundamentalist regime, was the "fifth column of the enemy" and engaged in "planned co-operation" with it.

Yet with only four days to go before the country votes for its next President, who will almost certainly be Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the capital's Friday prayer leader, the timing of Sunday's Abadan offensive appears to have been dictated as much by political as by military considerations.

A poll target of 18m-20m has been set for next Friday's ballot, and success on the battle front will certainly help the prospects of achieving this.

Iran has claimed to have captured or killed more than 3,000 Iraqi troops and to have pushed all occupying forces to the western side of the strategic Karun River, destroying Iraqi pontoons in the process.

With reports that fighting is still continuing, an armed forces communiqué speaks of the destruction of Iraq's 44th Infantry Brigade, as well as the 6th, 8th and 10th Armoured Brigades in the battle.

If true, Iran's advance will bring to an end any Iraqi hopes of capturing Abadan, although serious moves in this direction effectively stopped in the second month of the war last year.

It was in October 1980 that Iraq's forces attempted their most ambitious military manoeuvre of the whole war—a clockwise encircling movement from the north of Abadan Island that aimed to cut it off from the rest of Iran by blockading all routes to it from the north, north-east and east.

In terms of the overall war, Iran's victory would be a strategic gain that could raise popular hopes within the country that the Gulf War will soon be victoriously concluded.

Giving voice to this feeling, Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, said in a cable to the armed forces commanders yesterday that the whole country was hoping that "soon we will see all enemy troops expelled".

It remains to be seen whether this victory enables the war to become a focal point of national unity that would hamper the opposition's campaign to overthrow the régime.

If this one success was followed quickly by others, this might possibly occur. But given the necessary slow pace of Iranian mobilisations, which are dependent on limited supplies of arms and spare parts, this seems unlikely.

So far, popular reaction to the latest war news has been predictably mixed. Many opposition supporters still blame the clergy-dominated régime for the length of the war and earlier defeats.

Victory at the front in such circumstances can only be a temporary palliative to the wound opened up by the past two months of political violence and over 1,500 executions.

Without a political victory over the opposition that matches military ones, the next round of executions may well erode whatever advantages the Karun River battle has given the authorities.

Commonwealth pressured to change focus

BY DAVID TONGE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

NEW ZEALAND'S Prime Minister, Mr Robert Muldoon, is still smarting. "I'm angry and I admit it," he told Australian Television on Sunday, about criticism of his attitude to sports contacts with Pretoria by the Commonwealth and Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth secretary-general.

He also allowed the cameras to show the thick files attacking other Commonwealth members' human rights records which he is bringing to Melbourne.

Yet few of the 40 countries attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting which starts here tomorrow expect a row over the recent South African rugby tour of New Zealand.

Mr Muldoon has now made it clear he will not lash out unless cornered, and no one wishes to put him in that position. "People are not coming here punching," Mr Ramphal said last night. For higher stakes than sport are involved.

The Asian countries want the Commonwealth to broaden its horizon from Africa now that the perennial issue of Rhodesia is resolved, as Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of Singapore, has been stressing while visiting Mr Muldoon in Wellington.

Britain wants to confirm the Commonwealth's value as a unique forum for leaders of rich and poor countries to learn each other's concerns.

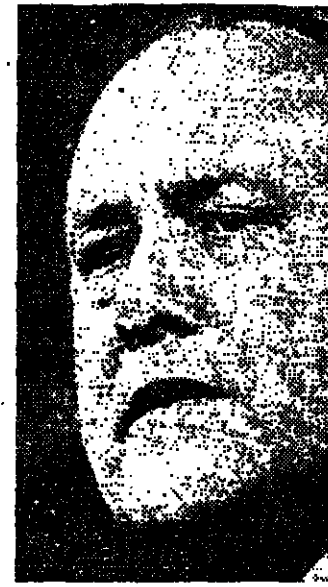
The Africans feel they have made their point about the Springbok Rugby tour by moving the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' meeting from New Zealand to the Bahamas. In any case, they are now more worried by Namibia.

Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, is too much involved in the conference to wish a row. In many ways, the host has staked more on the conference than any of his guests.

The Australian Opposition is criticising him for spending up to \$30m on preparations.

Some members of Mr Fraser's party have been complaining at his concentration on the problems of black Africa to the virtual neglect of the issues raised by the presence of the Cubans in Angola. Last week, he had to face two motions of censure in Parliament.

It would take a major disaster at the conference to trip up Mr Fraser domestically, and the careful preparations of the past few months indicate that such a disaster is unlikely. Several delegates have in-



Mr Robert Muldoon

sisted on the importance of tackling Namibia, as has Mr Fraser himself. His critics suggest this might be to distract black Africa from the problems of sporting links with South Africa and in many ways, there is little that the Commonwealth as a body can do about Namibia.

But it is inevitable that the

issue will arise, as the nine-day summit is the first major meeting between members of the five-nation Western contact group negotiating with South Africa and the African states involved.

The British are confident that the timetable developed for moving in 1982 towards independence for the territory will prevent Britain from finding itself "in the dock".

But a number of African countries say they are sceptical about what the British and Canadians may have to say on the proposals they have developed, together with the U.S.

Another controversial issue likely to be discussed is whether Pakistan should be allowed back into the Commonwealth. At one point, Mr Fraser had hoped this would be one major development to be announced at the summit.

But Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, has made clear her objections to giving the Pakistan régime any wider international respectability.

More important than these difficulties could be the development issue, on which countries have been focusing. Australia and the Commonwealth Secretariat have both

backed proposals to help food production in developing countries.

Countries such as Singapore are determined to criticise the protectionism practised by the richer members of the Commonwealth. Other leaders, in particular Mrs Gandhi, are disturbed at U.S. policy towards the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Developing countries gathered here are particularly concerned at reported proposals by a U.S. Treasury study group that Washington might consider persuading Western countries to reduce their contributions to the International Development Association, the soft loan arm of the World Bank.

Seven members of the Commonwealth are due to attend next month's summit of 22 world leaders on development issues at Cancun, Mexico, and many of the members of the Commonwealth are keen they should take a united message of concern with them.

In this, they will be focusing on Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, as Britain has recently been backing U.S. proposals to limit the creation of new IMF funds for developing countries.

Angola backs Western plan for Namibia independence

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IN A move which virtually sets the seal of African approval on the latest Western proposals for Namibian independence, Mr Paulo Jorge, Angolan Foreign Minister, yesterday labelled the Western agreement over an independence plan reached in New York last week "an important step forward".

Angola's backing is crucial for any United Nations initiative on Namibia led by the Western five-nation "contact group," and indicates probable

acceptance of the proposals by the South West African People's Organisation (Swapo). Swapo is fighting a guerrilla war from bases in southern Angola to end South African control of Namibia.

Mr Jorge told the Angolan news agency, Angop, that a set of constitutional principles for Namibia drawn up by the contact group was an important step towards achieving the territory's independence in accordance with UN Security

Council Resolution 435. Britain, France, the U.S., West Germany and Canada announced the set of principles last week to try to clear the way for Namibia's independence from South Africa in 1982.

The five powers earlier drew up a UN-approved independence plan for Namibia on the basis of Resolution 435, but South Africa refused to agree to its implementation.

Resolution 435 calls for a ceasefire in Namibia between

South Africa's forces and Swapo black nationalist guerrillas, followed by UN-supervised elections leading to the territory's independence.

The proposed principles for a Namibian constitution were formulated in response to South African fears over the consequences of the territory's independence.

They were agreed at a meeting of contact group Foreign Ministers in New York last

week, but details have not been made public.

"We have reason to hope that following this meeting the group of five will be able to speed up the process leading to the implementation of Resolution 435," the Angolan Foreign Minister said on his return from attending the UN General Assembly in New York.

Angolan acceptance of the constitutional principles would be a major breakthrough.

Booby-trapped car kills 11 at Lebanon checkpoint

BY OUR BEIRUT CORRESPONDENT

A BOOBY-trapped car parked near a joint Palestinian-Lebanese checkpoint in South Lebanon exploded yesterday, killing at least 11 people.

The blast occurred near the checkpoint manned by joint forces—grouping Palestinian guerrillas and their Lebanese leftist allies and injured 45 people, including bystanders. The checkpoint is near the village of Zariyah, north-east of the southern port city of Tyre.

Leftist Lebanese reports estimated the charge at 40 kgs. of TNT, while the right-wing Phalange Radio quoted security officials as saying it was 15 kgs. of TNT mixed with phosphorus.

Another bomb went off in West Beirut, but caused no casualties.

Since September 17, a series of such car bombs in Sidon, Beirut and Chekka have destroyed hopes for a period of relative stability in Lebanon. The explosions, for which a group calling itself the Front For Liberating

Lebanon from Foreigners has been claiming responsibility, have so far caused at least 40 deaths and injured 160.

The violence has coincided with a campaign aimed at discrediting the Prime Minister, Mr Chafiq Wazzan, and reports of Palestinian-Syrian friction. Mr Salah Khalaf, known as Abu Iyad—deputy leader of Al-Fatah, an armed Palestinian faction—has confirmed there are differences between Syria and the Palestinian leadership over security plans to supervise the influx of arms in Lebanon.

Fatah feels it should be exempted from this supervision—to which Rightist Christian leaders have agreed—because it describes itself as at war with Israel.

Mr Wazzan has refrained from publicly reacting to the tirades against him but officials close to the Prime Minister have said he is confident and unfaltering in his "nationalist" stand, and will respond to his critics "when the time comes."

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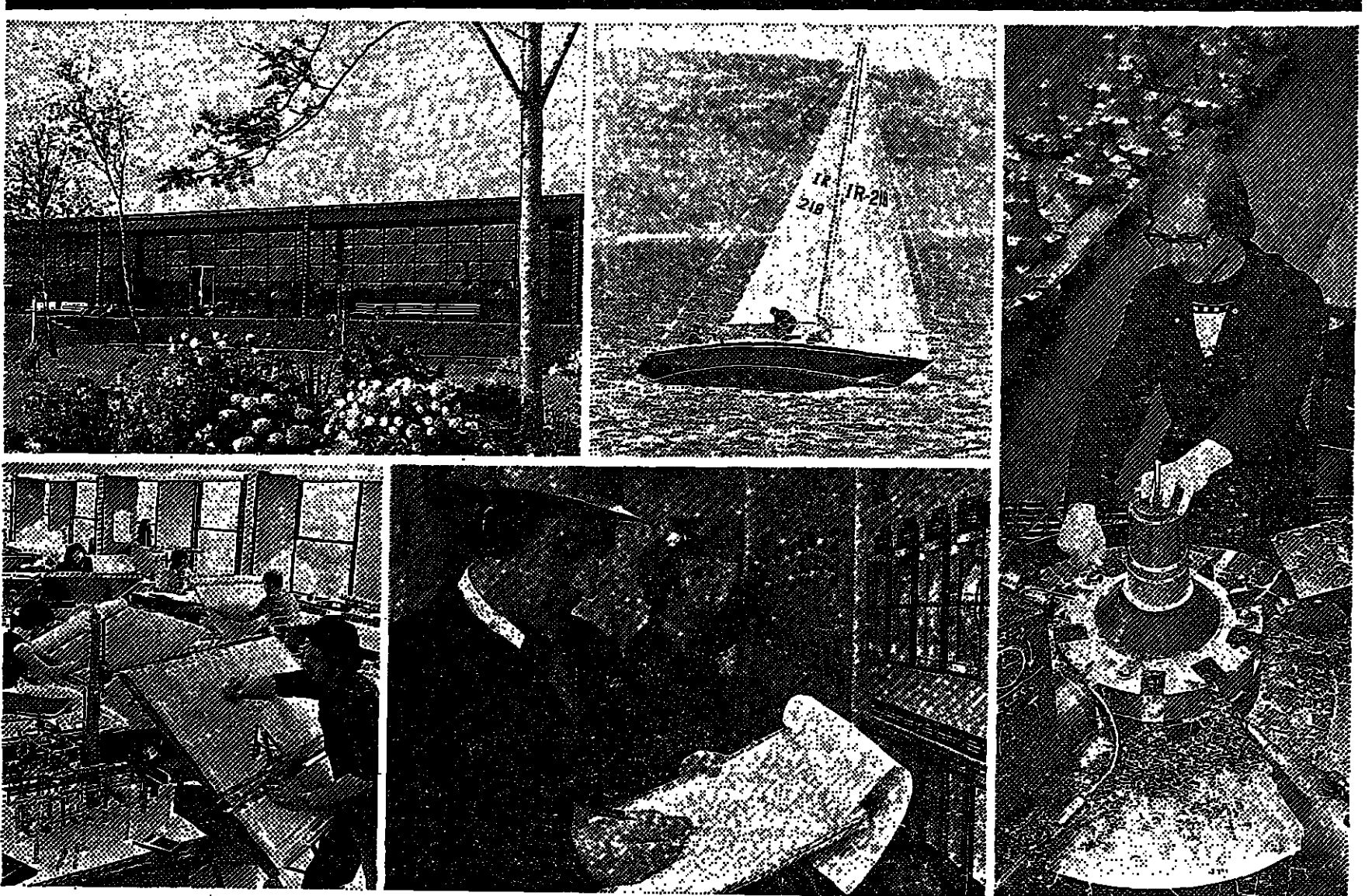
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AMERICAN NEWS

Gromyko meeting set with Haig

UNITED NATIONS — Mr. Alexander Haig, U.S. Secretary of State, and Mr. Andrei Gromyko, Soviet Foreign Minister, were expected to meet yesterday for the second time in a week to discuss prospects for reducing tension between their two countries.

U.S. officials said they hoped Mr. Haig and Mr. Gromyko could make progress towards defining the scope of nuclear arms talks scheduled to begin in Geneva on November 30.

They agreed at their first meeting to hold the talks, but did not specify what weapons would be covered.

The U.S. wants the initial focus to be on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. The Soviet Union has about 180 missiles targeted on Europe, and the U.S. plans to begin deploying 572 Cruise and Pershing 11 missiles.

The Soviet Union is known to favour a broader scope for the talks, to include U.S. nuclear-armed aircraft in Europe.

Besides arms control negotiations, Mr. Haig has said he would raise with Mr. Gromyko such issues as Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, Soviet support for the Vietnamese intervention in Cambodia, and U.S. insistence that the Soviets do not intervene militarily in Poland.

AP

France to join pressure on U.S. over IDA refunding

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

FRANCE will join its European partners in keeping pressure on the Reagan Administration to live up to its \$3.2bn (£1.7bn) commitment in the current refunding of the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank soft loan facility, M. Jean-Pierre Cot, the French Minister for Overseas Co-operation, said yesterday.

The Bank and IDA deserved

support, particularly for their focus on the very poor sub-Saharan African countries, a traditional area of French influence, M. Cot said.

It was vital a seventh "replenishment," or refunding of IDA be negotiated to start from 1983.

IDA provides almost the sole source of capital for the poorest countries with virtually interest-free 50-year loans.

The Paris Government was concerned that the U.S. had staggered its \$3.2bn contribution to IDA-6 over four years instead of the internationally negotiated three years, and that Washington was hinting it might not contribute at all to an IDA-7.

France supported the U.S.-led push for a greater degree of

discipline from borrowers of World Bank and International Monetary Fund money, to the extent it was clear that "aid cannot just be fung around" and the Third World must get a grip on its economic problems.

The Socialist Mitterrand Government did not believe, however, that Reaganite policies, essentially relying on the

private sector as the engine of development, could be successfully transplanted to the Third World. M. Cot said much development had been distorted by a failure of state planning and "economic direction."

M. Cot made clear that France intended to maintain the high proportion of its bilateral aid which is tied to the purchase of French goods.

in a hard-nosed defence of French self-interest. Foreign aid would help to create jobs in France and was an integral part of the Mitterrand economic programme.

France and other Western countries would be unable to ride out their present economic problems without some increase in trade protectionism.

Warning over 'Soviet Awacs'

BY OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

THE SOVIET Union will have its own early warning aircraft operating before any U.S. Awacs (Advance Warning and Control System) radar could be supplied to Saudi Arabia in four years' time, Mr. Caspar Weinberger, U.S. Defence Secretary, forecast yesterday.

This was the first news that the Russians are working on a system similar to the Boeing-built Awacs, and Mr. Weinberger's revelation to the Senate Armed Services Committee was a further attempt to persuade Congress that the proposed Awacs sale to the Saudis "does not pose serious risks that sensitive technology will be compromised."

This latest twist in the Awacs question, that the Saudis might have some U.S. personnel running the radar aircraft and ground equipment to ensure the

technology does not fall into the wrong hands.

White House and Republican leaders have sounded the Saudi Government out on this idea. But the Saudis are reported to have refused to countenance the prospect of Americans flying or operating the Awacs system beyond a necessary initial training period.

A new Senate staff study has warned of the danger of Awacs and other equipment, such as the Aim 9L missile, which the Administration also plans to sell the Saudis, somehow reaching Soviet hands.

Mr. Weinberger yesterday sought to counter this by stressing that the Awacs, while good, "do not represent the ultimate in U.S. radar and computer technology."

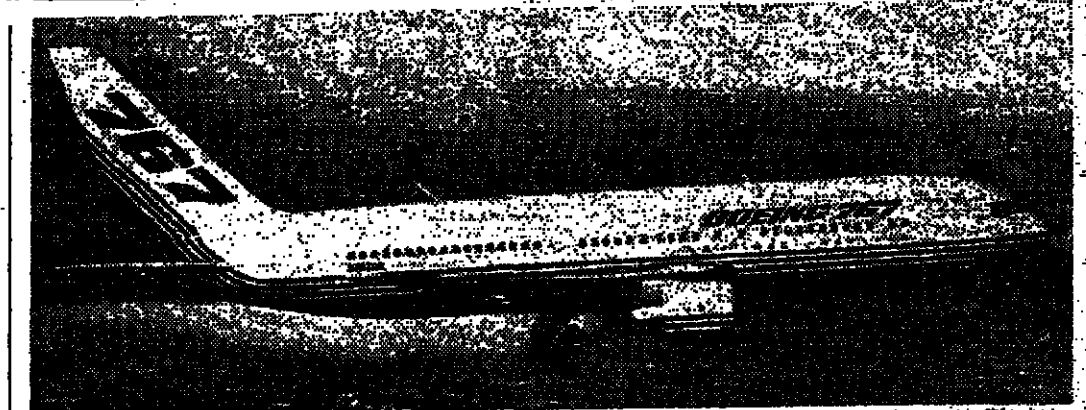
But the Senate study backed

the Administration warning that Congressional veto of the Awacs sale would damage U.S.-Saudi relations and U.S. plans to defend the Gulf's oil.

Mr. Weinberger expanded on this argument, and went on to warn that rejection of the sale "would confirm a too-widely held opinion in the Middle East that the U.S. is solely concerned with the wishes of the Israeli Government, to the exclusion of all other interests."

The Defence Secretary has proved the bluntest in the Reagan Administration in voicing irritation at Israel tying Washington's hands.

AP adds from Talt: Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia said yesterday that the King's leadership had every confidence in President Ronald Reagan to "salvage" the radar surveillance aircraft deal.



THE twin-engine Boeing 767 airliner, the rival to Europe's A-300 Airbus, made its maiden flight from Boeing's Everett, Seattle, airfield over the weekend. The aircraft was airborne for just over two hours in what was described as a perfect maiden flight.

The Boeing 767 now begins a flight test programme that it is expected to last nearly a year, culminating in the

award of a Certificate of Airworthiness next July, with first deliveries to the airlines in August.

Orders for the Boeing 767 at present stand at 173 aircraft firm, and 138 on option, for a total of 17 airlines, including Britannia Airways of the UK, which is buying two, with another three on option. At an average price per aircraft of about \$40m, the total

order book for orders and options is worth nearly \$12.5bn (\$6.9bn) including spares.

Boeing's investment in the 767 already stands at over \$1.5bn, and by the time deliveries begin, this will have risen to about \$2.5bn, covering aircraft in production at that time. The production rate will be 84 aircraft a month by mid-1983.

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Reagan to wage war on crime

By Reginald Dale, U.S. Editor, in Washington

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan, turning his attention from budget cutting to law and order, yesterday announced a six-point plan to wage war on crime and protect the rights of innocent victims.

"Retribution should be swift and sure for those who prey on the innocent," he told the International Association of Chiefs of Police in New Orleans.

In one of the strongest anti-crime speeches by an American President in recent years, Mr. Reagan stressed the need for moral values and criticised "social thinkers" who discussed crime only in terms of "disadvantaged childhoods and poverty-stricken neighbourhoods."

His plan included a sweeping reform of the Federal criminal code to "redress the imbalance between the rights of the accused and rights of the innocent" and the establishment of a new task force on crime victims, who would be given a "needed voice."

Foreign policy would seek to eradicate illicit drugs wherever cultivated, processed or transported, and war would be waged on criminal syndicates and corrupt public figures.

Mr. Reagan said he would seek to end duplication in federal and state law enforcement agencies, and would personally lead a speaking campaign to focus attention on the crime problem, which he described as "an American epidemic."

Trend seen on pay concessions

WASHINGTON — U.S. union members, worried about pricing their employers out of business and themselves out of jobs, increasingly are taking pay cuts or wage freezes.

Mr. Wayne Horvitz, former director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, said: "I think there's probably more of a long-term trend here than we give it credit for."

The latest group to accept a wage cut was the 20,000-strong workforce of Pan American World Airways, which is struggling to stay solvent. Carworkers and teamsters are likely to accept lesser concessions to help their industries stay competitive.

AP

150 arrested at nuclear power plant

CALIFORNIA — About 150 demonstrators were arrested yesterday as they linked arms in an attempt to prevent workers from entering the main gate at the controversial Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.

Before the confrontation, 1,643 people were arrested, more than at any other U.S. anti-nuclear demonstration. Protesters have been arrested for sitting in front of the entrance gates, trespassing on the plant property line and landing by sea at a restricted beach nearby.

AP

El Salvador protest

SAN FRANCISCO — Six protesters were arrested and several people injured as 4,000 demonstrators disrupted a luncheon at which Sr. Jose Napoleon Duarte, El Salvador's President, was speaking.

Mounted police and riot gear-clad tactical squad officers were needed to clear some of the chanting, sign-waving demonstrators from the front of the hotel.

AP

Campaign launched for Brazil's poor

BRASILIA — Brazil's leading Labour leader, Sr. Luis Inacio da Silva, launched a Left-wing political effort in support of Brazilians who have no voice in society following his confirmation on Sunday as president of the Workers' Party.

Sr. da Silva was elected president of the party he founded in response to his call for rights for workers and the poor.

He was leader of the metalworkers' union in the industrial state of Sao Paulo, which his Brazil's car industry for seven weeks in 1980.

At the convention, party members approved statutes and a platform for the party. It is the last of several political movements permitted to operate under a liberalisation plan sanctioned by the right-wing military-backed Government.

Attending as observers were representatives of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party and the Italian Communist Party.

Observers included representatives from the diplomatic missions of France, Portugal, Denmark, Britain, Venezuela, East European countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

AP

Sr. Miguel de la Madrid

President nominated in Mexico

By William Cutler in Mexico City

MEXICO'S ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) named Sr. Miguel de la Madrid as its candidate for the 1982 presidential election.

The PRI, which has ruled Mexico for 52 years, has never lost a presidential election, so it is a foregone conclusion that Sr. de la Madrid will be the next President.

His nomination has ended months of speculation about who will succeed President Jose Lope Portillo next year and take over the running of the world's fourth largest oil power.

Sr. de la Madrid, aged 48, has overseen the way in which Mexico plans to use its mounting oil revenues to industrialise the country. He was regarded as a forerunner for the presidential nomination.

There was speculation the candidate might be someone with stronger political credentials as Mexico's established system is perceived to be under strain.

Sr. de la Madrid, who did postgraduate work in business studies at Harvard University, is regarded as a technocrat and has served in key areas of the economy.

He was director of public sector credit at the Finance Ministry, assistant financial director for Pemex, the state oil monopoly, under-secretary at the Finance Ministry, and since May 1979 Planning Minister.

He succeeded where two of his predecessors failed to put out the country's first global plan. Unlike other government plans, it goes beyond the life of the present Administration.

The fact that he will be next President implies that the plan, a blueprint for the country's future, will not go by the wayside.

He is outward looking and was one of a minority of Ministers favouring the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) last year.

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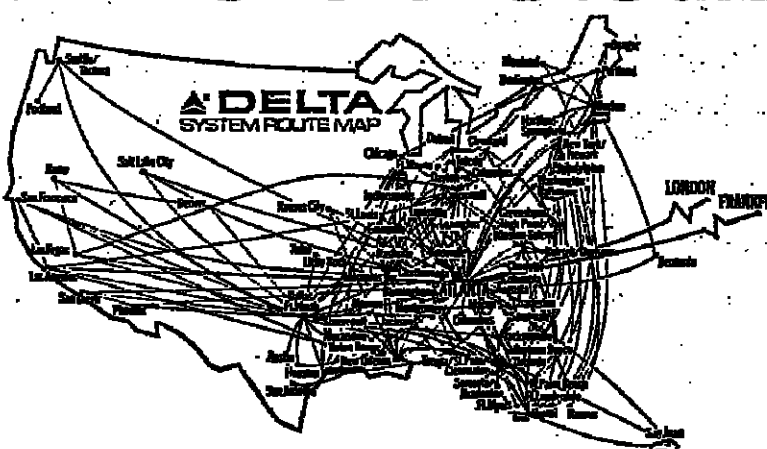
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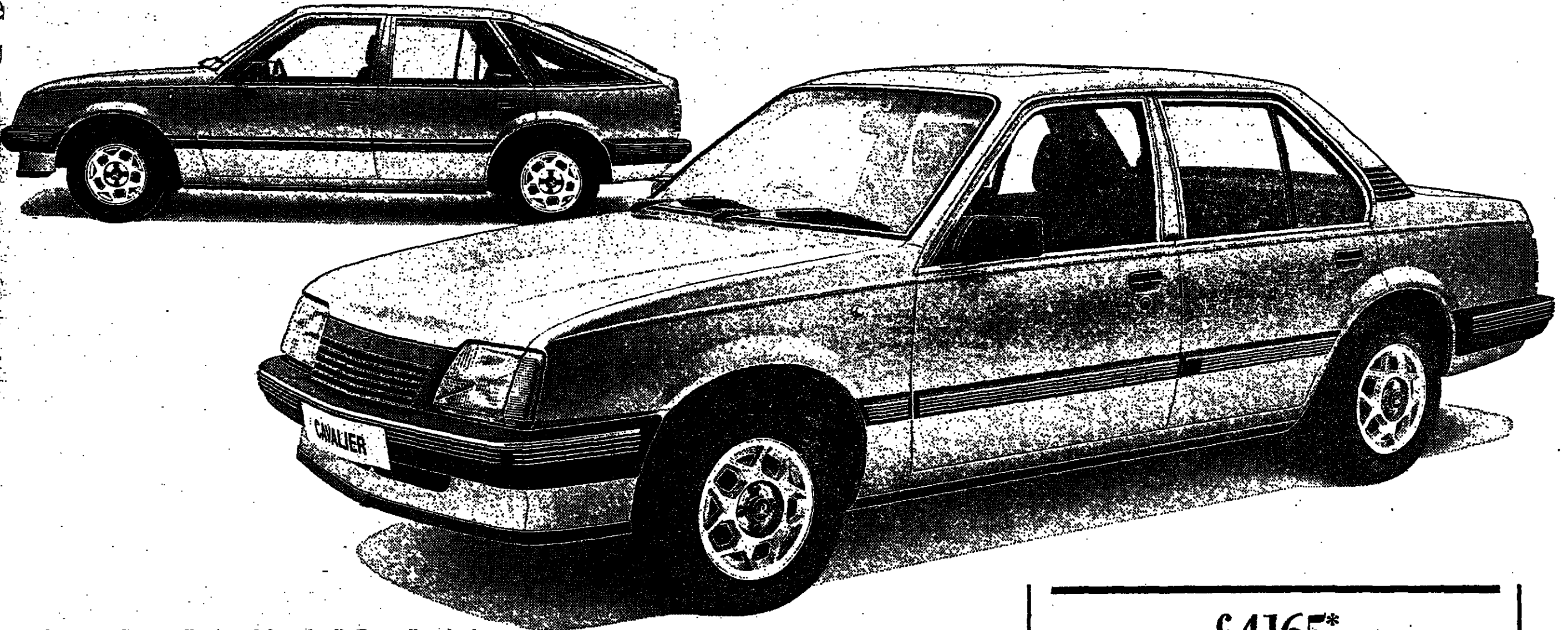
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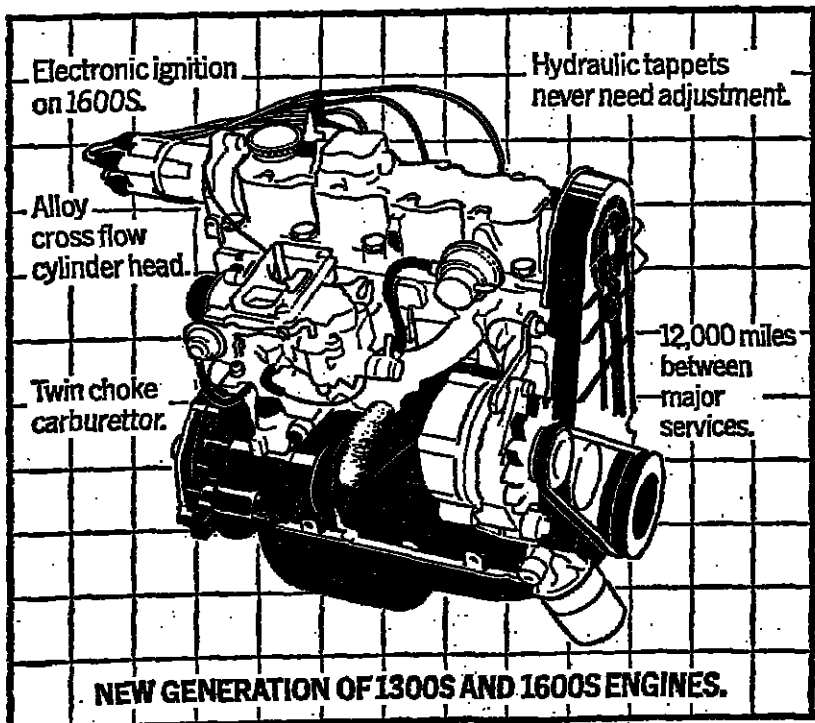
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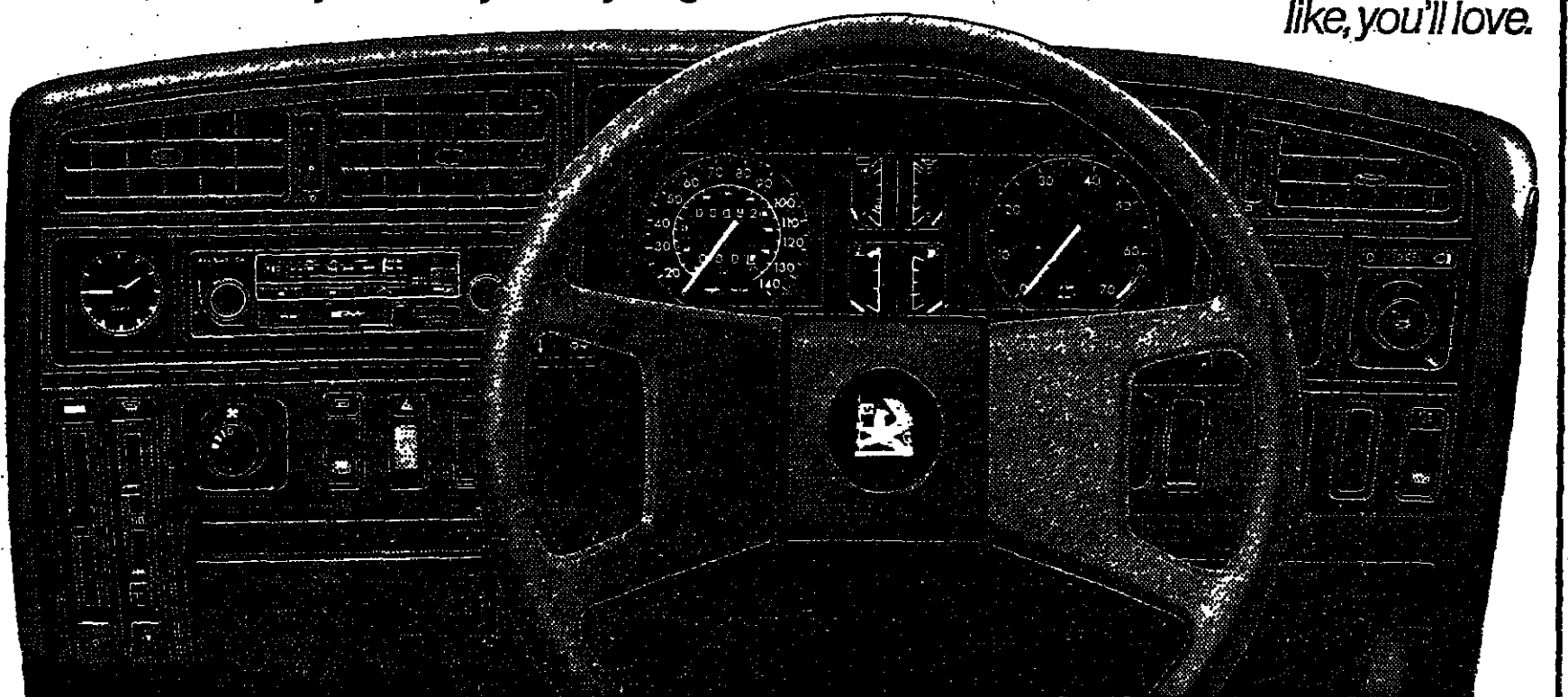
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WORLD TRADE NEWS

Rupert Cornwell, recently in Carpi, reports on a crisis in the knitwear capital

How hardship hit Italy's clothing industry

"CARPI used to be the most important centre for knitwear in Europe, but it isn't any longer."

That sombre observation by Sig. Umberto Severi, head of the local manufacturers' association, may console foreign rivals, who have always held that Carpi symbolised the sort of black economy structure which has, in their view, given the Italian clothing industry such an unfair edge.

Much more though, it is an accurate illustration of the difficulties being faced not just by this prosperous town about 130 kms south-east of Milan, but by Italy's much vaunted textiles sector as a whole. For years it seemed that Carpi, with its 300 industrial units and 2,200 artisans' workshops, could do no wrong.

However, the harsh economic realities of the 1980s, of cheaper Third World competitors, soaring labour costs and bank loans at 25 per cent or more, have combined with wider structural changes to leave Carpi uncomfortably exposed. The first golden age of Italy's knitwear

capital has ended, and new techniques and a new approach are needed.

Sig. Severi says the problem began in 1975, but for several years thereafter buoyant international demand ("buyers were queuing up outside the factories") masked the real difficulties. The crest of the wave came in 1979, when output by the sector nationally grew 7 per cent, and exports by 9 per cent.

Since then the tide has turned. Production and exports dropped in volume terms by 4 per cent and 7 per cent last year, and the signs are that 1981 will be worse still.

For Carpi, which with the neighbouring centre of Correggio, exported in 1980 some 75 per cent of its total knitwear output of £700bn (£800m), the consequences have already proved painful. According to the local association, 20 concerns have shut since 1979, and lay-offs have multiplied.

The reasons are various. Not only is there the new threat of cheap imports from the Far

East—knitwear shipments to Italy rose 45 per cent in 1980—but export markets have turned sour.

Demand from West Germany, which traditionally takes half of Carpi's production, has fallen. France, the second biggest market, has been waging intermittent customs warfare against Italian imports for months, while the East Bloc markets have been closed as if by official edict.

Even so, some leading manufacturers believe that the worst of the short-term slump might be over, thanks mainly to the rise in the dollar and yesterday's renewal of talks on a new multi-fibre agreement (MFA). The former has pushed up the cost of cheap imports (denominated in dollars) while the MFA talks have pushed the Rome Government into a tougher line on imports.

None of this conceals the recognised need for an overhaul in the system by which Carpi and by extension much of the rest of the Italian clothing industry has operated. The

days of cheap Italian textiles are long since gone.

One study recently reckoned that hourly labour costs in the industry are the fifth highest in the world—a figure that would seem to bear out the assertion that black market labour today hardly exists in Carpi.

"We were the first to use it, and the first to abandon it," says Sig. Severi—though others comment less charitably that strong unions in the Communist-dominated town have obliged the factories to cast their net further afield.

In any case, Carpi will be moving into a new era of greater pressures on its 13,000 "official" workforce, of greater emphasis on financial controls, and above all on modern marketing.

According to the local association, only 20 per cent of the area's knitwear output is directly marketed—four-fifths consists of work done for "third parties" who then market it under different brand names.

For Carpi, Sig. Severi believes, "anonymous goods are saleable

no longer." People, he claims, want to buy branded clothes, preferably with as smart a brand name as possible—and many look enviously at the franchising techniques perfected by French makes such as Cardin and St. Laurent.

As often as not, these are clothes made in Italy, but with a fancy foreign brand name, one association official said.

No one is disputing the validity of the fragmented structure of the industry, giving it the ability to respond swiftly to the changing whims of fashion, and reducing the threat of head-on labour confrontations, so common to big companies in Italy.

The biggest challenge, in the opinion of another local expert, is to avoid becoming trapped at the top of the market, necessarily small and on its own insufficient to sustain as big an industrial base as Carpi. Nor is the wider Italian domestic market big enough, Carpi's future lies as much as ever in exports, but the next few years are likely to be trying.

Sharp upturn in UK exports to Japan

By Charles Smith, Far East Editor, in Tokyo

BRITAIN'S exports to Japan, which fell by 1.5 per cent last year, achieved a startling 57.9 per cent rise in the first eight months of 1981, according to recently released Japanese figures.

The rise reflects fresh sales of a number of special items which do not normally figure high on the list of British exports to Japan. Traditional mainstays such as whisky and textiles did poorly, reflecting the strength of the pound—until recently—and the UK's declining competitive edge in world trade.

Japanese custom clearance statistics for the period for January to August inclusive show UK exports at \$1,770bn (\$83m), up 57.9 per cent, compared with Japanese exports to Britain at \$1,170bn (up 25.9 per cent).

The rise in British sales contrasts with stagnant or falling shipments by other EEC member countries. However, an analysis of the figures suggests British industry has benefited little. Non-monetary goods—up 260 per cent to \$270m in the first six months of the year, was a major factor in making the trade balance appear healthier. A number of other metals and ores also recorded sharp rises.

British and Japanese officials said yesterday they were mystified by the fact that Japanese statistics show exports to Britain (up from almost zero to \$178m) as a major item in UK exports to Japan during the first half of 1981.

Items that fared poorly during January-June 1981 were whisky—down 33 per cent to \$33.9m—and woven and worsted textiles—down 22 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

Last-ditch meeting saves talks on trilateral trade

By GILES MERRITT IN BRUSSELS

KEY TRILATERAL trade talks between Japan, the U.S. and the EEC that had been threatened with cancellation are expected to go ahead in late October following consultations between the world's three major trading partners.

The ministerial meetings are likely to take place in New York in the last week of October, slightly behind their original mid-month scheduled date, as a result of a firm commitment by both the EEC and the U.S. that they will not constitute binding negotiations.

The decision to save the New York talks was reached at a special meeting in Chicago between Mr. Kiyosaki Kikuchi, Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. David McDonald, the U.S. Deputy Special Trade Representative, and Sir Roy Denman, the EEC's External Affairs Director-General. The initiative to lift the threat that had last week been hanging over the trilateral talks is understood to have come chiefly from the EEC.

The New York trade discussions grouping for the first time all three major trading blocs, stemmed directly from last July's Western Economic Summit meeting of heads of government in Ottawa.

But a variety of pressures had lately combined to endanger the talks, notably Japanese fears that they would provide a forum for the U.S. and EEC to launch a concerted attack on Japan's export practices.

Japanese doubts over the nature of the talks have also been mirrored inside the European Community. Some EEC member states, France in particular, have been concerned that the informal ministerial re-



Sir Roy Denman... Involved in meeting

view of trade problems could develop into a more formal negotiation.

The Chicago consultations that now give the green light for the trilateral talks to take place in about a month's time have made it plain that the New York meeting is designed to produce a "weather forecast."

Not only will the Japanese be asked to assess the volume of their exports of "sensitive" products such as motor cars and electronics goods during the year, but also Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp, the EEC's Commissioner for External Affairs and Mr. Bill Brock, the U.S. Special Trade Representative, will be invited to forecast protectionist measures in the EEC and U.S. that might distort free trade.

Canada set for Mexico contract

By Robert Gibbins in Montreal
CANADA EXPECTS to sign a contract shortly worth between C\$300m-C\$400m (up to £181m) for equipment and services for the projected Monterrey subway in Mexico, officials of the Federal Export Development Corporation said.

Bombardier, a major Montreal transportation equipment company, BTM International and B. G. Checo are already supplying C\$150m of subway cars, electrical equipment and engineering services for the third phase of the Mexico City subway and EDC yesterday signed the financing agreement with the Mexicans based on an interest rate of around 7 per cent.

Both Bombardier and EDC officials said the final decision on the Monterrey project would be made soon and a similar financing deal with the Mexicans is expected to be signed.

Cairo 'prepared to expand trade with Israel'

By DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

ISRAEL found a new willingness on the part of Egypt to develop two-way trade during talks held in Cairo last week on expanding the links between the two countries, a senior Israeli official said.

The Egyptians reported that in the first eight months of this year they had issued licences for the import of over \$50m (£27.7m) worth of goods from Israel. This compared with the \$12m worth which Israel

exported to Egypt last year. Most of the licences issued this year were for dairy produce imports, especially eggs, frozen chicken and butter, as well as some durables and investment commodities, according to the official who attended the talks.

There has been virtually no flow of goods from Egypt to Israel since the peace agreement and Israel had suspected that this was a result of deliberate

Egyptian Government policy to keep the links to a minimum.

But at last week's meeting the Egyptian delegation produced a list of items which they thought might be exported to Israel. This included certain types of phosphates not produced in Israel, aluminium bars, leather goods and certain food items such as onions, garlic and sugar cane.

The Israeli team was also

encouraged by Egyptian willingness to permit Israeli companies to sell to the dominant public sector, provided that this was done through a central agent in Cairo.

It was also agreed that Egypt will participate in the Israel technology fair in Tel Aviv next month and that Israel will participate in the building and construction fair in Cairo the same month.

British Gas wins Egyptian consultancy deal

By MARTIN DICKSON, ENERGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH GAS has won a consultancy contract in Egypt for the installation of natural gas distribution networks in Alexandria and western Cairo.

The contract, awarded by Petrogas, the Egyptian state gas concern, is worth over £1.25m and will boost UK engineering companies' hopes of securing major construction

contracts on the projects. British Gas is already acting as consultants for the conversion of Eastern Cairo to natural gas and William Press, the UK engineering company, has won a £50m turnkey contract for that scheme.

For the two new projects, British Gas will carry out feasibility studies and provide

design, engineering and contract formulation services. It will also act as project manager for western Cairo. Petrogas is expected to invite bids for the new contracts next spring.

Western Cairo involves constructing 50 kms of high-pressure pipeline to supply gas from an existing pipeline, south

of the capital, to the suburbs of Giza, Dokki, Agouza, Mohandeseen and Embaba. In the first three years of the project, some 150,000 existing users of bottled gas appliances will be converted to natural gas.

Natural gas for Alexandria will come from the offshore Abu Qir field.

Fresh design from Fokker and Douglas

By Charles Batchelor in Amsterdam

FOKKER and McDonnell Douglas have begun a second round of presentations to airlines in the U.S. and Europe of a modified version of their proposed MDX-100 medium-range, 150-seat, airliner.

The design should lead to a further fuel saving, will allow the aircraft to land on a greater number of airfields and will increase the power of the engine, Fokker said.

The two companies hope to complete discussions with airlines in the U.S. and Europe as well as, for the first time, in the Far East and Australia by next month. The final design will then be put to potential customers in November.

The MDX-100, as envisaged, would have a higher tail plane leading to an additional fuel saving of up to 3 per cent. The original two-wheel main landing gear will be replaced by four-wheel bogies to extend the number of airfields which can be used. Twin aisles are planned.

Fokker expects to sell about \$1bn of aeroplanes in Asia by 1990 and is looking for companies in Asia to manufacture parts for some of its aircraft. AP-DJ reports from Singapore.

Korea 'needs huge transfers of capital'

By David Dodwell

KOREA requires "massive transfers of capital and technology from abroad" over the next five years, according to Mr. Suh Suk Joon, the country's Minister of Commerce and Industry, who arrived in London yesterday at the head of a top-level trade mission to Britain.

Korea will be seeking foreign investment, will be liberalising its import policy to encourage purchases of technology from abroad, and is keen to set up joint ventures in third countries between Korean and European companies. Mr. Suh said as he opened the fourth joint meeting of the Korea-UK Economic Co-operation Committee, held at the Confederation of British Industry.

Predicting that Korea's two-way trade will have reached \$100bn (£55.6bn) by 1985, Mr. Suh said that under the new five-year plan the Government will be putting emphasis on private sector initiative. He blamed state intervention in the past for imbalances in the Korean economy, and said intervention would be reduced, particularly in the capital market.

On Korea's trade with Britain, Mr. Suh was particularly keen to encourage joint ventures.

"We are especially interested in joint ventures involving small and medium-sized firms in order to improve their efficiency and facilitate intra-industry specialisation," the Minister said. Good candidates are manufacturers of components and parts in the machinery and electronics industries.

Global Natural Resources LIMITED

INTERIM REPORT

Global Natural Resources Limited, an independent U.K. oil and gas exploration and production company with operations in the U.S., Canada and Indonesia, has announced unaudited results of operations for the six months ended 30th June, 1981, as follows:—

	6-months 1981 US\$'000	6-months 1980 US\$'000
Gas and Oil Sales	15,653	10,824
Interest Income	3,364	1,166
Other	87	86
Total Revenues	19,104	12,076
Expenses:		
Exploration	4,965	1,454
General and Administrative	1,729	1,996
Depletion—Depreciation	1,741	1,176
Other	2,988	2,191
Total	11,423	6,817
Income before Tax	7,681	5,259
Provision for Income Tax		
U.S.	100	635
Indonesia	3,212	1,975
Net Income	4,369	2,649
Earnings per Average Share	21 cents (12p)	13 cents (5 1/2p)

The increase in gas and oil sales resulted principally from price increases in the Black Warrior Field (Alabama) and increased production from the Hastings Field (California) and the Altamira Field in Alberta. New discoveries also started producing in Wyoming and Oklahoma. Interest income in 1981 increased due to significantly higher interest rates and increased deposits resulting from the receipt of distributions from IPI.

Exploration in the U.S. and Canada for the six months ended 30th June, 1981 produced 6 successful exploratory wells, 23 successful development wells and 22 dry holes out of a total of 51 working interest wells.

The results from the three-well, 1980/1981 winter Arctic drilling programme (not included above) were three successful offshore wells. The wells are of great significance since each was an oil discovery as well as a gas discovery. The Cisco Well was a dual zone oil and gas discovery with the major estimated reserves. This well was the first oil flow to the surface from sandstones in the Avingak formation. The Skate Well was a dual zone gas discovery with oil flowing to the surface from King Christian sands. The Maclean Strait Well was a multiple zone gas discovery with varying quantities of condensate and oil. Delineation drilling will be required to determine with certainty the ultimate reserves attributable to these wells. The company's interest in the drill-site permits for the Cisco and Skate Wells is 17.2% and 8.6% for the Maclean Strait Well and interests in permits adjoining the wells range from 8.8% to 17.2%.

The accelerated exploration programme resulted in expenditures of approximately U.S.\$20 million for the six months in 1981 compared with U.S.\$4.4 million in 1980. Such expenditures for exploration, lease acquisitions and additions to equipment in 1981 were funded principally from cash flow from operations for the period (before exploration expense) of U.S.\$11 million and reduction of approximately U.S.\$7 million in liquid working capital.

For a copy of the Annual Report made by the Company to the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, write to:

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DKB ECONOMIC REPORT

September 1981: Vol. 10 No. 9

Japanese economy increasingly feels the impact of high U.S. interest rates

As the recently-published 18th edition of the white paper on the economy points out, the Japanese economy is in the final stage of adjustment to the disruptive impacts of the second oil crisis. It is steadily, if slowly, recovering, with domestic prices growing in stability and the balance of payments improving. It is not totally free from problem, however, as regards the pace of inventory adjustment, corporate results and employment, and the depreciation of the yen since early this year is posing additional concern for the future.

Exchange rate and prices

The yen's rate against the U.S. dollar (interbank, spot, monthly average of mean value) declined 13 per cent from 202 in January to 232 in July. As of August 27, it was quoted at 231. Although the Japanese currency will be headed for appreciation as a trend in the future on the strength of excellent performance of the Japanese economy, the trend of the U.S. economy and interest rates is likely to keep it volatile for the time being.

The yen's decline accounted for 9.5 percentage points of the 11.3 per cent rise in import prices between February and July. Despite this, the advance of wholesale prices during the period was only 2 per cent, with their level in July only 1.1 per cent ahead of a year earlier. The impact of a cheaper yen has been limited to raw and basic materials through higher import prices, but it is almost nil on intermediary and finished products on which domestic supply-demand balance is still slack.

As a consequence, consumer prices have also been continuing stable. Exclusive of seasonal commodities, they rose by a moderate 2.2 per cent between February and July in Tokyo's 23 wards. In July, they advanced 4.1 per cent from a year earlier, compared with the 5.3 per cent registered in the April-June period. The

stability appears likely to stay for some time.

Production

Production has been sluggish due to slumping domestic demand, and its recovery so far is very slow. The absence of genuine force in production is evident from comparison with the level of a year earlier (seasonally adjusted)—down 0.7 per cent in March, up 0.3 per cent in April, down 1.8 per cent in May, up 2.6 per cent in June. The forecast index pointed to a rise of 1.2 per cent in July, only to be followed by a drop of 2.1 per cent in August.

The recovery of production is slow under the dual impact of slow domestic shipment and a delay in inventory adjustment in industries producing basic materials. Producers' finished goods inventories fell 0.3 per cent in April and 0.1 per cent in May, but moved up by 1.3 per cent in June. Production activities, however, are expected to follow a course of moderate recovery in the coming months as personal consumption is beginning to show signs of perking up and exports, centering on electric machinery and precision machinery, continue strong.

Stirrings in domestic demand

The recent trend of domestic demand is characterized by recovering personal consumption and growth of business capital investment gradually losing steam.

Against the background of slowdown of consumer price advances, personal consumption is regaining strength after a prolonged stagnation since spring last year. Real consumption expenditures by households rose 0.8 per cent in March over a year earlier and kept rising in the following months—up 3.5 per cent in April and 0.2 per cent in May.

As for investment, slowdown of growth of outlays for plant and equipment is notable. According to a survey (as of June) by the Economic Planning Agency, capital investment in all industries

(covering corporations with capitalization in excess of ¥100 million) during the first six months of this year appears to have posted a marginal increase of 0.9 per cent over the preceding six months on a seasonally-adjusted basis. The survey, moreover, indicates that such investment will likely fall by 4.2 per cent in the second six months of the year.

Willingness for such investment is particularly weak among smaller enterprises, whose actual capital expenditures in the first half of this year decreased 0.6 per cent from the preceding six months, and the planned amount for the second half represents another drop of 8.7 per cent.

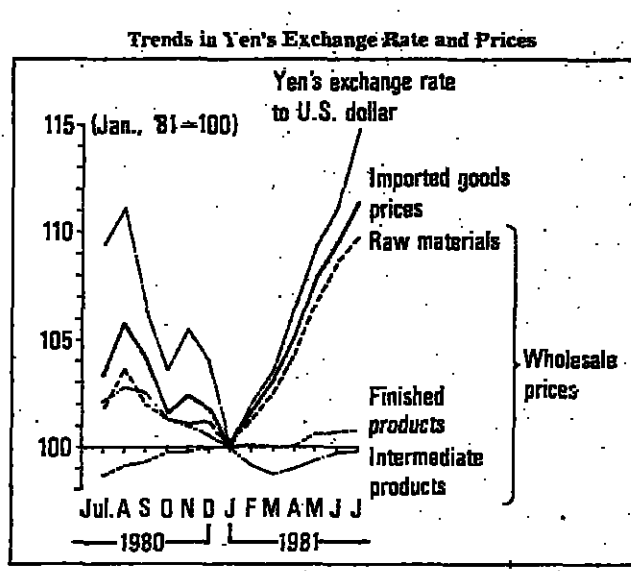
Orders for machinery (private sector, excluding ships and the power generation industry), which indicate the level of capital investment in the future, already declined 9.3 per cent during January-March from the preceding period and 1.6 per cent in the April-June period, both on a seasonally-adjusted basis.

Meanwhile, private housing investment is showing only a very feeble recovery after finally hitting a bottom. New housing starts in the April-June period were 4.1 per cent below the year-before level, which represented an improvement from a drop of 17.8 per cent in the preceding quarter. But this was mainly due to a rush of housing starts in May aimed at dodging tighter building standards effected from June.

Public works investment is providing a prop to the economy, thanks to the policy to speed it up. Treasury disbursements on public works rose 9.2 per cent in the April-June period over a year earlier and 27.4 per cent in July.

Continuous strength of exports

In contrast with generally slow domestic demand, exports maintain strong expansion, if not as strong as in last year. Compared with a year earlier, volume of exports on a customs clearance basis rose 12.8 per cent in the first quarter. 11.6



Source: The Bank of Japan

per cent in the second quarter, and 15.0 per cent in July. Growth of electric and precision machinery is particularly high, while automobiles remain at last year's level due to voluntary restraints after June.

Despite a weakening of the yen in recent months, Japanese exporters have not been in a hurry to bring down dollar-based prices because of their confidence in price competitiveness of their products. By contrast, imports are strikingly stagnant. On a customs clearance basis, the volume of imports declined 0.6 per cent in the first quarter, 0.7 per cent in the second quarter and 5.3 per cent in July, from a year earlier. Crude oil, in particular, fell 8.9 per cent in the first half of this year from a year earlier. Lumber also fell by a sharp 26.6 per cent.

These trends of foreign trade are resulting in a swelling trade surplus, which rose from a seasonally-adjusted \$3,402 million in the first quarter to \$5,472 million in the second quarter. The seasonally-adjusted current account balance as a result swang to a hefty surplus of \$2,028 million in the second quarter from a deficit of \$722 million in the first quarter.

Money market under influence of high U.S. interest rates

The money market is increasingly coming under the impact of high interest rates in the United States.

Corporate fund demand lacks force due to slowing expansion of business capital investment, although there is some demand

for financing of a "backward" nature, like production cutbacks. In addition, the Bank of Japan's policy of leaving lending volumes to the discretion of each bank after the second quarter is gradually causing a feeling of monetary relaxation. Under the circumstances, lending rates had been on a steady decline, with the average contracted rates of city banks standing at 7.50 per cent at July-end, down 0.733 point since the start of the year.

Interest rates, both long- and short-term, however, are beginning to turn firm under the growing influence of high interest rates in the United States. The market of long-term government bonds is particularly depressed under the dual impact of past massive issuances and high U.S. interest rates. The yield on the secondary market was at 9.17 per cent as of August 27, more than a full percentage point above the yield on the new issue at 7.88 per cent.

Such market situations forced the Ministry of Finance to cancel flotation of issues scheduled for June and July to be underwritten by the syndicate comprising commercial banks and securities firms. For August, the Ministry improvised a unique formula of private placement of ¥900 billion worth of 6-year maturity bonds with a coupon rate of 8.2 per cent and a yield of 8.287 per cent. Although this is intended as just a one-time formula, it poses many problems from the viewpoint of liberalization of interest rates and growth of bond market.

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Expansion and tours planned by British Midland Airways

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH MIDLAND AIRWAYS, the UK's largest privately-owned domestic airline, is to expand its route network and aircraft fleet, and re-enter the Mediterranean leisure market.

Mr Michael Bishop, chairman, said yesterday the airline had leased a 30-seat Short SD-330 turbo-prop aircraft for six months. This will operate on the airline's new East Midlands-Heathrow service, which is now being flown three times daily each way.

The airline is acquiring two Fokker 44-seat F-27 turbo-prop aircraft for use on domestic winter flights. With these smaller aircraft it hopes to improve profitability. This was lost, along with that of other UK airlines, by the past summer's air-traffic controllers' dispute.

British Midland introduced about 300 redundancies and a pay freeze last winter, however, and was leaner and tougher to withstand the summer's problems. Bishop said there would be no more redundancies this winter and that by next spring the airline might be able to take on more staff.

Among its route expansion plans the airline is waiting for a Civil Aviation Authority decision on its bid to compete with British Airways on the London to Glasgow and Edinburgh routes.

It has also applied to take over the Birmingham-Brussels route being abandoned by British Airways.

The airline will base its two Boeing 707 jets at Birmingham. It is negotiating contracts worth £10m with tour-operators for inclusive-tour holiday flights next summer from Birmingham and the East Midlands airports to Palma, Ibiza, Malaga, Alicante, Faro, Corfu, Crete and Tenerife.

British Midland intends to remain primarily a domestic schedule service airline, however, with only about 25 per cent of its total output assigned to the inclusive-tour market, principally from the Midlands.

The airline is studying its longer-term fleet equipment plans and showing strong interest in the new stretched version of the twin turbo-prop British Aerospace 748 aircraft, seating up to 66 passengers.

Stansted airport inquiry heads for turbulence

Whether London should have a third airport—and where—is causing long and bitter debate, Michael Donne reports

THIS PUBLIC planning inquiry into the development of Stansted as the third major airport for London, which opens today at Quedon Park in Essex, is not only likely to be the longest and most expensive inquiry yet held in this country, but also the most bitter.

It is, in effect, three planning inquiries rolled into one.

The major inquiry is into the British Airports Authority's plan to expand Stansted to cater for up to 15m passengers a year from the present capacity of about 1m (although it handles far fewer than that), and ultimately up to about 50m passengers a year, with a second runway, as demand through the rest of the country may require.

However, various local authorities and other organisations, who have been incensed by the BAA's attempt to promote Stansted, have submitted rival applications of their own.

The Uttlesford District Council, in whose area Stansted lies, has tried to turn the tables on the BAA by submitting a planning application for the development of a fifth passenger terminal at Heathrow Airport.

This bid has the support not only of British Airways—which wants to see a fifth terminal at Heathrow—but also of many other airlines which use that

airport and are fearful of what may happen to their costs if they have to conduct "split" operations at two major airports in the London area. The fifth terminal proposal is being strongly opposed by the BAA.

The third thread in the tangled skein comes from the Town and Country Planning Association which has applied for the resuscitation of the plan to put the third airport on reclaimed land at Maplin, off the Essex coast.

This is being fought by local environmental objectors, such as the Defenders of Essex, who strongly opposed the original plan to develop Maplin, which was abandoned by the Labour Government in 1974 when work on it had barely begun.

By rolling all three planning applications into one inquiry, Mr Michael Heseltine, Environment Secretary, has imposed a formidable task on Mr Graham Eyre, QC, the inspector he has appointed to hear the evidence and make recommendations.

Most people in the civil aviation and travel industries believe the inquiry will stretch to nine months and, perhaps, even to as much as a year or more.

Therefore, many millions of words will be spoken and much acrimonious argument heard.

The quiet atmosphere surrounding Quedon Park, the former home of the Earl of Inchcape, will reverberate to the angry tones of scores of local councils, associations, and individuals who feel that their homes in the quiet of rural Essex are now under attack for the third time in 20 years—first in 1964-1966 and again in the Roskill inquiry of 1968-71.

The Stansted Inquiry has already polarised the civil aviation community into opposite camps. Strong and even angry words fly between them.

Everyone in civil aviation is convinced that, once the recession passes, air travel growth will resume. But there are marked differences of view about the rate of growth, and about the number of passengers that can be expected at the airports in London and the South-East.

The Government's Working Party on the Forecasting of Air Traffic, whose report was published last week, suggested that by 1990, air traffic in the London region might range anywhere between 52.6m a year and 70.3m, and that by the year

2000, it might be anywhere between 67.9m and 110.9m a year.

The Department of Trade, which uses these forecasts to help it decide on levels of investment in airport development and other areas of civil aviation—is conscious of the substantial gap between the "low" and "high" forecasts, and is taking for its own purposes a narrower range of figures—between 46m and 50m for 1985; between 56m and 67m for 1990; and between 65m and 84m for 1995.

Even so, with such extremes of forecasting, it will be very difficult at the Stansted Inquiry for anyone to state with confidence just what is going to happen to civil aviation in the next 20 years.

At that they will be able to say is that air traffic will grow, and that additional airport capacity will be needed somewhere to cope with it.

This brings in another thread to the argument. Whereas British Airways (and other airlines using Heathrow) believe the growth can be contained with a fifth terminal there (and

The Stansted affair is therefore not just a South-east matter.

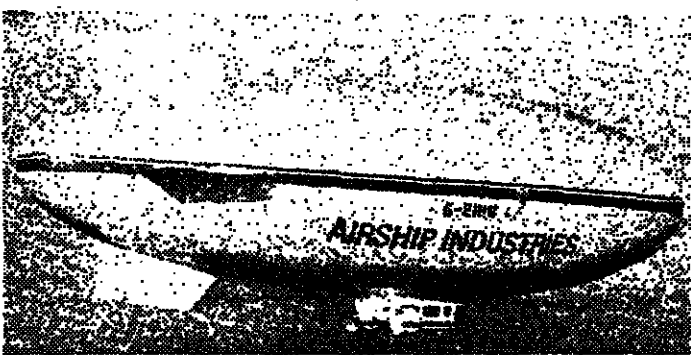
It is also a fight between the South-east and the regions, who believe strongly that if only the Government permitted much more development of their airports, and did more to encourage airlines to use those airports, the pressures on London and the South-east might be eased substantially.

It is this complex tangle of views that Mr Graham Eyre has to unravel. He will, helped by Mr Philip Maynard, a principal planning inspector with the Department of the Environment, and Mr William Woodruff, who recently retired as controller of the National Air Traffic Control Services.

Whatever recommendations the inquiry may make to the Government, the final decision will have to be a political one. And it is this that worries the civil aviation industry.

Even should the inspector produce his report some time in 1983, it is likely that the Government will need at least six months or more to study it. Any kind of decision may therefore not be forthcoming until late 1983 or even early 1984.

At that time, the present Government may either have held, or be moving towards, a general election.



Skyship 500 on its maiden flight over Bedfordshire.

Airship makes successful 30-minute maiden flight

BY OUR AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

THE FIRST of a new generation of British-built airships, the Skyship 500 built by Airship Industries, made its maiden flight successfully yesterday from the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Cardington, Bedfordshire.

The Skyship 500 is 164 ft long, with a diameter of 46 ft and an overall height of 61 ft. It is powered by twin six-cylinder air-cooled petrol engines driving variable-pitch propellers, giving a maximum speed of 63 knots.

Major sub-contractors in-

cluded in the airship's construction have included Porsche, Slingsby Engineering and the Westland Aircraft group.

The Skyship 500 is designed to perform a wide range of tasks. These include military surveillance and reconnaissance and as a television platform in a civil role.

It is intended that early next year, after completing flight trials and airworthiness certification, four Skyship 500s will be leased to potential users for trials and longer-term evaluation.

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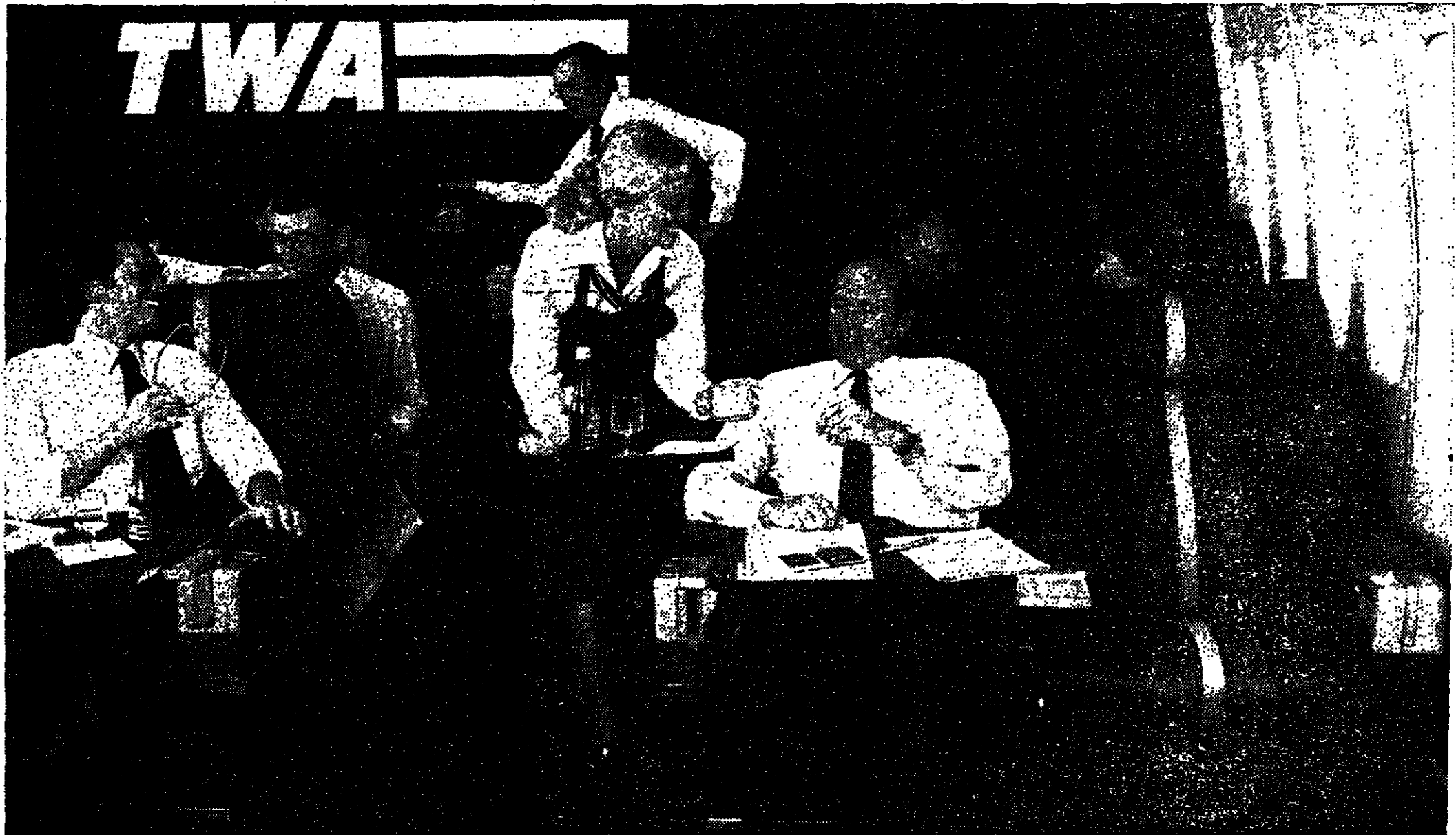
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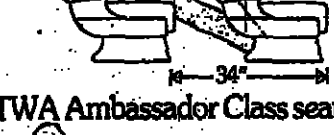
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UK NEWS

Barclaycard interest rate up 0.25%

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN

BARCLAYCARD, the Barclays Bank subsidiary, announced an increase yesterday in the monthly rate of interest to cardholders from 2 per cent to 2.25 per cent.

The rise, attributed to higher cost of funds, means that Barclaycard customers will pay an annual rate of 30.6 per cent for purchases, and about 30.9 per cent for cash advances.

The increase in these rates affects more than 5m cardholders, including customers

of Yorkshire Bank, Bank of Scotland and the Co-operative Bank. The Trustee Savings Bank's Truistcard will not be affected.

The increase is effective from November 1. Interest at the new rate, calculated on the daily balance left outstanding from the previous statement date, will be charged and shown on cardholder statements issued from November 1.

As a result of the increase monthly interest rate returns to its level of last March, and

Access cardholders have a cheaper card. The Access monthly interest rate is still 2 per cent.

National Westminster Bank, which accounts for about 40 per cent of all Access customers, said that the monthly rate was being reviewed, but no decision had been taken.

Other banks in the Access consortium—Midland and Lloyds Bank—said that they knew of no plan to raise the 2 per cent rate immediately. It is possible that Access banks

will follow suit.

Barclays Bank disclosed a rise in the interest rate on all new personal loans, known as Barclayloans. From October 7 the true annual rate will be 20.7 per cent, compared with the previous 18.8 per cent.

This personal loan rate puts Barclays in the middle, with some clearing banks higher, and one lower. National Westminster's effective rate, also calculated over a two-year period, is 19.7 per cent.

Lloyds Bank and Midland

charge an effective annual rate of 21.7 per cent on personal loans.

National Girobank, the banking arm of the Post Office, is raising the limit its cheque guarantee card customers can withdraw from £50 to £100. Customers will be able to withdraw this amount from their accounts every other working day.

The facility will be available only at the Post Office branch named on the customer's guarantee card.

BP trims industrial and commercial fuel price rises

BY MARTIN DICKSON, ENERGY CORRESPONDENT

THE PRICE war between the oil companies took a twist yesterday when BP Oil said it was raising prices of industrial and commercial fuels by less than its competitors.

The move is meant to put pressure on other oil companies, which put up their prices last week, to stop cutting petrol prices. Since the start of this month petrol has fallen by about

2p a gallon at the pumps to between 165p and 168p for a gallon of four star, as companies have reintroduced support for dealers.

BP said yesterday it was implementing lower increases because it believed the overall rises needed in product prices should not be borne solely by industrial customers.

Price support should end and

petrol should rise by at least 2p a gallon.

The company, which lost £93m on its UK operations in the first six months of the year, said it was still losing money on product sales.

Mobil, which last week accused Shell and Esso, the market leaders, of being the prime movers in price cutting in an attempt to increase market

share, last night agreed with BP's call for an end to dealer support.

However, other companies gave no indication that dealer petrol was likely.

The increases in BP's industrial fuels, which came into effect at midnight average 2.3p a gallon. Retail diesel goes up by 4.05p a gallon, gasoil and light fuel oil by 3p.

Standard burning oil rises by 5.51p a gallon and pink paraffin by 5.52p. These two increases are in line with those by other companies.

Esso took the lead in raising prices early last week and was followed on Friday by Shell and Mobil. Shell pointed out that it had lost £42m in the first half of this year.

Texaco announces boost for Tartan oilfield production

BY MARTIN DICKSON

TEXACO, whose Tartan oilfield output has been building up much more slowly than originally planned, has announced a significant production boost.

The company, which wholly owns the field, 110 miles north-east of Aberdeen, said it had linked the pro-

duction system with the first in a series of special wells drilled from a floating rig designed to speed up output.

It was intended that Tartan should enter production in spring last year, but bad weather and other delays—notably the drilling of an unproductive well on the

geologically complex block—meant it did not start up until January.

To counter these delays, the company changed the field's development programme. Originally it was intended to drill all the production wells from the field's single fixed platform.

But a floating semi-submersible rig, the Ocean Keld, was brought in to drill up to five wells away from the platform, to be used for oil production and water injection to conserve reservoir pressure.

Texaco said yesterday that the first of these, two miles south east of the Tartan platform, had tested oil at 11,549 barrels a day through a two-inch choke.

This well, and the completion of one from the platform, is expected to boost Tartan's production from around 11,000 b/d to nearly 30,000 b/d.

West warned against dangers of oil glut complacency

BY OUR ENERGY CORRESPONDENT

THE INTERNATIONAL oil market is likely to tighten again in a few years and there is a danger that complacency over the current glut could increase the West's vulnerability to interruptions in supply.

These observations were made yesterday by Dr Herman Franssen, the International Energy Agency's chief economist.

He was speaking at a London oil conference organised by the International Herald Tribune and Oil Daily.

Dr Franssen said price factors and sluggish economic growth in the rest of this year and most of next were likely to keep non-Communist world oil demand from rising more than 2 per cent next year.

Consumption had dropped

from 51.8m barrels a day in 1979 to 49.4m b/d last year. In 1981 it was estimated to have fallen 6 per cent to 46.5m b/d. It was projected to rise next year to 47.3m b/d.

"With demand for its oil projected to be low again in 1982, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will undoubtedly be in for some rough sailing in the year ahead and possibly in the next few years," Dr Franssen said.

It was reasonable to suggest real oil prices might be constant over the next few years or that there might even be a drop on real 1980s prices—assuming there were no major additional disturbances in key oil-producing Gulf states.

He did not agree, however, with analysts who said the most

likely outcome of the 1979-80 oil crisis was constant prices in 1980 dollars throughout the 1980s or even to the end of the century.

Non-Communist world demand was likely to rise to 48m b/d in the mid-1980s and to 52m b/d-55m b/d by about 1990.

If the per capita income gap between the industrial world and the developing countries was to be narrowed, the latter would have to grow at about 5 per cent a year. This would lead to soaring oil demand, even with substantial growth in other energy sources.

Potential non-Communist world output would probably range between 50m b/d-55m b/d in the mid-to late 1980s. This would be more than adequate

to meet projected demand at constant real prices for the next few years. Thereafter, however, the market was likely to tighten again.

"We are running the risk of postponing important investment decisions to build new electric power plants, liquefied natural gas facilities and synthetic-fuel plants for too long, thereby remaining more dependent on imported oil than current optimistic projections suggest," Dr Franssen said.

He estimated that 50 per cent or slightly less of the decline in industrial countries' oil demand since 1979 was due to conservation and fuel-switching.

Between one-third and one-half, however, might have been caused by other forces, mainly

cyclical, and, as soon as the economies of the industrialised countries began to recover from recession, oil demand was likely to increase.

Mr John Lichtblau, executive director of the Petroleum Industry Research Foundation in New York, told the conference this year's drop in oil prices was beginning to affect U.S. energy investment decisions.

Synthetic-fuels projects were being scaled back, postponed or cancelled. A similar fate might await the Alaskan gas pipeline project.

He asked whether the actions of U.S. businessmen and government could contain the seeds of a sharp real-oil-price rise in the late 1980s. He said this possibility could not be dismissed.

Fewer foreign tourists as more Britons go abroad

BY JAMES McDONALD

FEWER PEOPLE came to the UK for holidays, and more Britons holidayed abroad in July than last year, say Department of Trade statistics.

There were 1.4m overseas visitors, 17 per cent fewer than in July last year, while Britons' visits abroad, 2.23m, were 14 per cent higher.

For the first time in six months there was no deficit on the travel account. Visitors to the UK and Britons abroad both spent £370m.

The way the balance was reached in a peak holiday month was not encouraging. Earnings from overseas visitors were £31m or 7.7 per cent lower than in July 1980, while spending abroad by Britons was £70m or 33.3 per cent higher.

Visits from North America

were about the same, but visitors from the European Community were down by 28 per cent; from other Western European countries 3 per cent; and from other areas 10 per cent.

With the pound much weaker against the dollar than in 1980, visits to North America in July were down by 3 per cent. Visits to the European Community increased by 3 and to other Western European countries by 49 per cent.

International Passenger Survey figures for the first seven months of this year show that visitors to the UK, at 6.18m, were 12 per cent fewer than in the same period of 1980. Visits abroad by Britons were 6 per cent higher at 9.90m. Visitors to Britain spent 10 per cent less at £1.47bn, while Britons spent 16 per cent more, £1.60bn.

University plans on job security face legal delay

PLANS by many universities to cut the job-security of newly appointed academic staff are liable to be blocked, possibly for years.

Moves to change academics' employment contracts so that newly engaged staff can, in future, be dismissed on grounds of redundancy are being made by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals.

Whether the new contracts can be put into force, however, will depend on the particular university's charter and statutes.

If these were incompatible with the proposed reduction in job-security, the university concerned would have to apply through the Privy Council for its charter and statutes to be amended.

Anglo-U.S. fund invests in electronics companies

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TWO INVESTMENTS in electronics companies, totalling £270,000, have been made by the Anglo-American Venture Fund. This investment company is jointly owned and run by the National Enterprise Board and Mr Jack Melchor, a Californian venture capitalist.

The investments were announced yesterday at a conference in Durham run by Mr Melchor and the British Technology Group, of which the NEB is part.

Both investments are in the assisted regions and involve products in key areas of computer and video technology.

A range of video display terminals is to be made in Warrington New Town, for the European market, by Direct (UK), starting next year, as a

result of a £200,000 investment by the fund.

Mr Melchor negotiated the arrangements with Direct Inc. of Sunnyvale, California. This company developed terminals that can be operated by users of Hewlett-Packard equipment.

The second investment, £270,000, is into Set Systems. This company developed a range of computer terminals that require only a limited amount of knowledge to operate.

The company was formed in the Thames Valley last year. It will move to the North West because of the investment.

The Anglo-American fund was set up by the NEB last November to bring U.S. venture-capital experience to the UK and to increase the number of high-technology projects in the regions.

U.S. urged to improve on Brandt economic proposals

By Anatole Kaletsky

THE U.S. should launch a "positive programme for an international economic order offering a better promise for human welfare and aspirations" than the Brandt report, Professor Karl Brunner said in London yesterday.

He was speaking at London's Trade Policy Research Centre before the conference on North-South issues to be held at Cancun, Mexico.

Professor Brunner, a leading monetary economist whose views have been influential with the Reagan and Thatcher administrations, said the Brandt Commission had provided justifications for an "extension of socialist institutions to the international arena. It has also legitimised the 'power monopoly' of political oligarchies."

The idea of creating a New International Economic Order represented a political trend radically opposed to the Reagan administration's concept of the social and political organisation of a free society.

The U.S. should seek an international economic order based on a "perception of man consistent with the core of economic analysis and with the realities of our world."

Professor Brunner strongly attacked an attempt to redistribute world resources through official institutions such as the Law of the Sea Conference and the World Bank.

The World Bank should "eliminate all redistributional schemes and political loans so persistently cultivated under Mr Robert McNamara's presidency."

It should act as a commercial bank, specialising in making loans to private international investors.

The U.S. should reject any international treaty on the Law of the Sea and instead lead other nations in passing legislation permitting businesses to operate freely in the deep seas.

A new international monetary system should be a major goal of U.S. policy, he said. This should be achieved without the aid of international organisations and agreements but through an "alternative strategy fully under the control of the U.S." based on a stable domestic monetary and fiscal policy.

OBITUARY

Mr George Pulay

MR GEORGE PULAY, 33, a director of Charles Barker ABE International and chairman of Charles Barker CEC and Charles Barker Lyons has died.

Mr Pulay had been a director of the advertising and public relations group's parent company, Charles Barker ABE International, since 1972 and was a founder member of Charles Barker CEC (formerly Charles Barker City) in 1968. He became chairman in 1977.

After serving in the Second World War in the Army Intelligence Corps, Mr Pulay joined the editorial staff of the Daily Telegraph. He became the assistant city editor in 1964-66. He was subsequently the deputy city editor of the News Chronicle (1966-1967) and after joining The Times in 1967 he was the newspaper's city editor between 1966-68.

Boeing purchase

HORIZON TRAVEL is to buy another Boeing 737 jet airliner for its wholly-owned subsidiary, Orion Airways, which flies holiday flights from the East Midlands, Manchester, Luton, Birmingham and Gatwick. Orion's seventh 737, will cost £14m and is due for delivery in March, 1983.

Car sales plan

MERCANTILE CREDIT, the Barclays Bank credit subsidiary, has formed a joint financial company with Alfa Romeo, the Italian car manufacturer. Alfa Romeo Finance is seen as a major plank in the company's attempts to increase car sales in Britain from the present 1981 estimate of about 8,500 cars.

Bath club sold

THE FORMER headquarters of the Bath Club in Mayfair, which went into liquidation earlier this year, has been sold for more than £1m to Sunley Holdings, the building, civil engineering and property development group. Sunley, which has acquired a long lease on the building at 41-43 Brook Street, said that it had no immediate plans for the premises but will be having discussions with the freeholder and local planning authorities "with a view to substantially improving the property for mixed usage."

BR club offers half-price fares

BY JAMES McDONALD

A TRAVEL club launched yesterday by British Rail for the 250,000 holders of annual season tickets is offering members half price rail travel at weekends and half price travel mid-week and at weekends for their husbands, wives or an adult friend. In addition, £1 flat fares are available for up to four children.

The scheme, aimed at increasing British Rail's cash flow and annual season ticket sales, is being promoted by direct mail, and leaflets and posters at all BR stations.

BR tested the market for the Journey Club, as it is called, earlier this year when it offered annual season ticket holders a free day out by rail and was encouraged by the acceptance of 120,000 season ticket holders—nearly a 50 per cent take-up.

Those who accepted the offer provided BR with a mailing list and they have been posted copies of the club's first journal and invitations to join.

Journey Club membership costs £2 a year and is open to holders of BR and joint BR-London Transport annual season tickets. The green membership card doubles as a railcard which can be used to buy Awayday (day return) tickets at half price for use at weekends and bank holidays.

For an extra £1, members can have a second red coloured railcard for wives, husbands or an adult friend which they can use to buy half price Awayday tickets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in addition to weekends and bank holidays. Holders of either railcard can take up to four children with them on day trips at a flat fare of £1 for each child.

Members will receive special travel offers from time to time. In the first issue of the quarterly club magazine, Journey, a £36, three-day and two-night visit to Paris is offered. Also on offer is a reduction of 25 per cent off full ordinary fares on most Sealink and BR hovercraft services.

Joining the new club is all about value for money because it puts added value on your season ticket, writes Sir Peter Parker, chairman of BR, in the journal.

Mr David Rayner, BR's passenger sales officer, said the club would provide a valuable link between BR and annual season ticket holders. "We hope half-price fares will encourage members and their families to travel more by rail. With car costs soaring we believe the club will be a boon for family outings."

State industry directors seek major pay rises

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE GOVERNMENT has been asked to approve a major increase in the pay of nationalised industry board members "as a matter of urgency."

A letter criticising what the Government has done so far has been sent by the Association of Members of State Industry Boards, which represents board members belonging to the rank of chairman—to Baroness Young, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, who inherited ministerial responsibility for public service salaries from Lord Soames in the recent reshuffle.

Written by Mr Denis Dodds, chairman of the association, the letter says that the executive board members continue to be appalled at the depression of their salaries "well below market levels."

The board members under-

Office politics 'affected by problem drinking'

BY GARETH GRIFFITHS

BUSINESS executives are particularly vulnerable to pressures leading to alcoholism with problem drinking often playing an important role in office politics, a conference was told yesterday.

Professor William Lintford, Rees, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at London University, told the World Conference on Alcoholism, which is meeting in London this week, that the problem drinkers—the head of companies were isolated from the rest of their organisations by a potential clique of subordinates.

"They in turn, achieve power and material gain, and control the top executive with clearly understood yet unexpressed threats of exposure. Thus, the executive usually gives in to their demands rather than risk any exposure," he said.

Heavy or dependent drinking,

£11m spending planned to boost photo film sales

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

THE BRITISH photographic industry is likely to spend more than £11m this year to promote sales of films and equipment.

This year the total photographic market is expected to rise to more than £550m, compared with about £480m in 1980, but the industry has become worried that this growth, particularly in the film processing sector, is slowing.

Already high street shops and mail-order companies which process films are cutting prices to win trade. A report published by the industry yesterday says the processing sector is worth £210m—nearly half the

total market. This compares with £155m each for films and camera equipment.

The photographic industry is particularly anxious to promote greater film sales. On average, Britons take only 100 photographs a year. More than half the 15m camera owners used only three films or fewer each last year, and 13 per cent of owners made no use of their cameras at all.

British interest in photography lags well behind the U.S., Germany and Japan, and Britain is thought to be among the lowest users of films in Europe.

British interest in photography lags well behind the U.S., Germany and Japan, and Britain is thought to be among the lowest users of films in Europe.

Anglo-French talks start on Channel link project

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

EXPLORATORY TALKS on the Channel link project began in Paris yesterday between British and French transport officials.

The talks come three weeks after Mrs Margaret Thatcher and President Mitterrand decided at their London summit to revive Anglo-French co-operation on the project.

Eight plans have been put to the Transport Department. These range from the single-bore rail tunnel proposed by British Rail and French Rail,

to British Steel's scheme for a rail and road link.

Until recently the French Government was unenthusiastic about reviving the project, abruptly ended by the Labour Government in 1975. The new French President has, however, encouraged British officials by his constructive, flexible attitude to it.

Last Friday Mr David Howell, the Transport Secretary, met the FEC's transport committee to discuss how the EEC as a whole could participate in the

Ford offer on redundancy

THE Ford Motor Company announced improved redundancy terms in a bid to cut back the 1,850 workforce at its Swansea, South Wales, axle and gearbox plant.

In future, workers volunteering for redundancy will receive an extra payment of 13 weeks' wages on top of already-established severance payments.

The company asked for 250 redundancy volunteers more than a year ago but there have been no takers. The move is opposed by unions who want work-sharing

Builders' merchants more confident of prospects

BY WILLIAM COCHRANE

THE Builders' Merchants Federation, which in August produced figures showing merchants continuing to claw back lost ground, said yesterday its latest survey revealed a marked increase in confidence for future trading prospects.

Looking ahead six months to March 1982, 26 per cent of builders' merchants expected greater sales and 47 per cent felt they would hold their own.

There was a 17 per cent fall compared with the previous

survey, in June, in the number of merchants expecting their sales volume to decrease.

Most optimism was shown in the South. There the number of merchants expecting to register more sales in the next six months increased by 21 per cent.

Asked to predict sales in 12 months time, merchants maintained their short-term confidence. Of the total, 75 per cent believed they would be doing better or the same by September 1982.

Government cash sought for North-West

BY RHYD DAVID, NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT

MANCHESTER Chamber of Commerce is demanding increased government spending in the North-West. In a six-point plan to boost the area's economy, it claims that too much money is in danger of being diverted to the South-East.

Mr Paul Sauter, the chamber's chief executive, said yesterday that although there was evidence the recession was bottoming out, the region needed a helping hand to recover from its worst effects. Higher investment needed to be stimulated if industry was to achieve improved productivity.

Present indications were that investment in the region was still at a low level and the recent rise in interest rates would discourage capital formation further.

In examples of excessive money being spent on the South-East, the chamber detailed schemes like the estimated £600m expenditure on developing Stansted as the third London airport. The money should go instead on developing Manchester which will handle about 5m passengers this year, and other regional airports.

Improved roads and rail links and on the sewerage system, much of which is collapsing.

"This would enable the region's hard-pressed construction industry to increase economic activity and lead to further financial benefits for the community," Mr Sauter said.

The chamber wants to see Manchester become the headquarters of the EEC's Patent Office. At present Britain is putting forward London as its candidate and government ministers have rejected an application by Manchester.

Other demands include a reduction in interest rates and

government action to restrain the rise in nationalised industry prices.

The chamber is pressing Greater Manchester Council and Manchester City Council to proceed quickly with redevelopment of Central Station as an exhibition complex, to ensure the area is not left without facilities when the Belle Vue complex is redeveloped shortly for industrial, housing and leisure.

Mayfield Holdings, a management buy-out company, is to invest £500,000 on equipment for its William Reed weaving subsidiary.

Papers launch computer information system

BY LISA WOOD

THE FIRST phase of a computerised information system for regional newspapers was introduced yesterday.

The system holds information related to newspapers and their circulation areas in Scotland, but information on newspapers in England and Wales will become available in the next three months.

Advertisers and agencies will

TUC bid to improve health service pay negotiations

BY BRIAN GROOM, LABOUR STAFF

THE TUC proposed an improved system of pay determination and industrial relations yesterday for the National Health Service's 1m-plus employees which it said would reduce need for disputes.

In return it wants the Government to feed results of pay negotiations into its expenditure planning instead of imposing cash limits in advance.

The importance of comparability should be recognised by setting up a jointly controlled independent NHS databank to supply information for collective bargaining, the Health Services Committee says in a report prepared by a working party for two years after a recommendation by the Royal Commission on the NHS in July 1979.

It supports establishment of an NHS arbitration tribunal.

The TUC backs continuation of collective bargaining and the system whereby most national associations is conducted in the joint Whitley Council. In one of the report's more controversial sections it states that there should be a "marked reduction" in number of the 41 unions and non-union associations with bargaining rights.

Recognised organisations should be trade unions, normally affiliated to the TUC, and able to provide full services of national and local representa-

tion, research and training.

No fewer than 28 of the recognised negotiating bodies are outside the TUC, including the British Medical Association; the British Dental Association; and the Royal College of Nursing and Midwives. TUC unions organise about three-quarters of NHS employees.

The TUC finds the distinction between "trade unions" and "professional associations" increasingly valid. Unions now fully recognise the importance of promoting the professional interests of NHS staff, while the biggest professional associations fully resemble trade unions, it says.

This part of the report was attached yesterday by the British Medical Association, which objected to the recommendation that two small TUC-affiliated bodies, the Hospital Consultants' and Specialists' Association and the Medical Practitioners' Union section of ASTFIS, should enter the representative structure for doctors and dentists.

These groups "do not even meet the criteria for recognition set out in the report," the BMA said. The members of the two groups already had the right to vote for and stand for election to the committees recognised for negotiating purposes.

The Royal College of

Nursing, with nearly 200,000 members, which rejected TUC affiliation in a ballot two years ago, said it was too early to comment on the report. It is likely to vote again on affiliation next year.

The TUC wants a stronger link between membership numbers and seats on collective bargaining bodies.

Though it backs continuation of national pay bargaining it recommends extension of some forms of supplementary local bargaining and wants joint shop stewards' committees recognised in every NHS district.

The TUC recommends a code of practice for industrial disputes, largely based on present codes of TUC unions, which stresses that essential emergency services should be maintained.

To help achieve compliance with the code it wants the Government to withdraw a circular which it considers "provocative," advising managers on such measures as suspension, withholding pay, using "volunteers" and contingency planning for a dispute.

The TUC will consult management and the professional associations and plans to meet Mr Norman Fowler, the new Social Services Secretary. Improving Industrial Relations in the Health Service, TUC Congress House, Great Russell Street, WC1E 1B.

Strike hits assembly at BL Cars

By Our Labour Staff

PRODUCTION of the Triumph Acclaim and the Princess at BL Cars' assembly plant in Cowley, Oxford, was halted yesterday because of a dispute at the nearby Pressed Steel Fisher car body plant.

About 3,000 production and back-up workers at the body plant, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, went on strike in sympathy with 20 men who move heavy equipment.

The equipment movers objected to contractors doing their work during last week's plant closure for the autumn holiday.

After meetings with union officials BL was hopeful that the body plant workers would turn up today and that the assembly workers would probably be recalled on Wednesday.

Furniture plant to axe 100 jobs

WORKERS AT Schreiber's furniture factory in Runcorn, Cheshire, were sent home by the management yesterday although they voted to end a month-long strike. The 320 employees have agreed to work a one-day week, and accept 100 redundancies.

They walked out four weeks ago over plans to axe 88 jobs, and the company said this had led to lost orders and the need to cut staff.

Alcan Aluminium (UK) executive change

Mr G. Russell is to become managing director and chief executive officer of ALCAN ALUMINIUM (UK) from October 12. He will succeed Mr D. Morton, who is taking up an appointment as executive vice-president of ALUMINIUM COMPANY OF CANADA on that date.

Mr Ken J. O'Brien, managing director of WILLIAM THYNE, is to retire at the end of March 1982, because of ill health. Mr Francis S. Thynne, at present deputy managing director and sales director of the company, will be appointed managing director from the beginning of next April.

Mr D. F. Jackson has been appointed financial director of JAMES NEILL HOLDINGS. He was formerly group financial director of Concentric.

Mr E. H. Nicholson has been appointed managing director of BELLING AND LEE, a member of the Cambridge Electronic Industries group, following the retirement of Mr R. E. Collins because of continuing illness. Mr D. C. Pratt has succeeded Mr Nicholson as managing

director of member company BEPI (ELECTRONICS). Mr Pratt was managing director of Pye Borders Electronics and he remains a director of that concern.

Mr Stuart Hollander is to be elected to the board of VANTONA GROUP from January 1. He will be a joint managing director with Mr Martin McKay of the Compton Webb uniform division with a view to succeeding him. Mr J. I. Menaged has relinquished executive duties in the Vantona Group but remains on the group board in a non-executive capacity.

Mr Hollander is at present a senior vice-president of Kurt Salmon Associates and will be leaving at the end of this year. He is also chairman of the Economic Development Committee for the Cotton and Allied Textile Industry.

Mr L. J. Scollay, who joined FOTHERGILL AND HARVEY in May 1980, has been appointed a director of the company.

Dr Ewan Corlett has been appointed a director of the ISLE OF MAN STEAM PACKET COMPANY in place of the late

Mr Frank Kussack. Dr Corlett is chairman and managing director of Burness Corlett and Partners.

Mr Ron Lewis has been appointed commercial director of TOWCO. He was formerly commercial director of George E. Taylor, a subsidiary of the Turf Group.

Mr Dennis C. Musgrave has been appointed a director of the BRITISH WATER INDUSTRIES GROUP from October 1. He is at present chief water

engineer of the Department of Environment and will be continuing in that position on a part-time basis until March 31, 1982, after which he will be working full-time on BWIG duties.

Mr Harvey Chesterman is to retire as a director of TIME PRODUCTS to devote most of his time to the group's overseas operations, in particular the Remex Group, Hong Kong. Mr Chesterman, who is now resident abroad, will retain his directorships of overseas subsidiaries.

OVERSEAS

Mr Hugh Richardson has been appointed president of BURMAH OIL INCORPORATED, in the U.S. from October 1, having been Burma Group chief accountant. He is succeeded by Mr Tony Heath, who was group finance director of Burma's Halfords subsidiaries and chief executive of its Leonard Newman subsidiary. Mr Heath will have the title of group controller to the Burma Group.

Mr D. M. Cannon has been made chairman of TRI BASIN

RESOURCES and Mr D. J. McDonald has become vice president of mining. Both are directors. Also appointed to the board are Mr R. G. Welby, Mr S. J. Krist, and Mr W. Bailie.

Dr Robert Holzach, chairman of Union Bank of Switzerland, has succeeded Dr Alfred Schaefer as board chairman of UNION REINSURANCE COMPANY, Zurich. The bank is a major shareholder in the company.

CONTRACTS

£3.5m services for micro-chip plant

THE ROSSER AND RUSSELL GROUP, building services engineers, has gained a contract worth about £3.5m for the mechanical services, air conditioning, fire protection and plumbing services at the Immos micro-chip plant now under construction in Newport, Gwent.

Due for completion in 1982, the plant makes an architectural feature of the mechanical services, exposing the air-handling and related equipment in a two-storey spine, running down the centre of the single-storey building.

In an order valued at nearly £500,000 British Telecom is to purchase more than 550 synchronous and asynchronous VDU and matrix printer terminals from NEWBURY LABORATORIES.

An order worth £2m has been placed with the data processing division of PHILIPS BUSINESS SYSTEMS by the Royal Bank of Scotland for the supply of branch terminal printers for about 1850 counter positions. The new printer will benefit both customers and branch staff by printing receipts for deposits and withdrawals. Service

improvements will also arise from its capability of printing details of recent transactions and account balances. First installations will take place in the second half of 1982.

ABBEY ELECTRONICS of Macclesfield, a Stone Platt Industries company, has an order valued at £500,000 from British Rail for the supply of W.S.P. electronic equipment which detects and controls wheel slip and/or slide on passenger carrying railway rolling stock.

SULZER BROS. (UK) has been appointed mechanical and electrical services management contractor at the New Change premises of the Bank of England. The project comprises the installation of two 2055 kW and one 879 kW boiler fired by natural gas modulating burners. Boilers will be manufactured by Hoval Farrar with burners supplied by Saacke. Contract value is about £350,000.

CPE BODYWORK, part of Cheshire Fire Engineering, is to build the bodywork for 144 specially designed 30 cwt

vehicles for British Telecom's telephone services in a contract worth around £500,000. The bodywork, in glass reinforced plastic-faced plywood on a Dodge RB56 chassis is for vehicles working as general purpose units on external plant maintenance. Each will be equipped with pole-carrying facilities, workshop and cooking equipment for use by small gangs.

RATSEY AND LAFTHORN, Cowes sailmaker and sailcloth weaver, has been awarded a contract worth £250,000 a year to make the sails for Western Marine's range of yachts. All the sails for Western will be made from the new Vectra Supercruise, a sailcloth specifically developed for cruising sails, with a light weave and no resin filling. It is soft, and stows in a fraction of the space of conventional cloth, and is protected against ultra violet light, says the maker.

Cornwall County Council has placed an order worth about £250,000 with COMPAIR CONSTRUCTION and MINING for 28 Zitar 65 compressors, 29

Ziter 20 roadbreakers and a range of accessories for use in the highways department.

A £231,000 contract has been awarded to timber-frame builder S. WERNICK AND SONS, Brownhills, to build the Kingswood Sports and Social Club, Nuneaton. The club, which has 1,100 members, is for people living on the nearby housing estates. It will be open by the end of January. The single-storey building will have a function suite and bar with a stage, a lounge-bar, a games room and bar. The steward's flat will be two-storey. There will be a car park at the front and at the back.

LEX TILLOTSON is to supply 14 custom-built vehicles to the Southern Gas Board. The order is worth £140,000. The vehicles, all Leyland 440 EA vans, have been modified and fitted for the Gas Board's distribution division.

Vauxhall Motors Ltd has ordered a REDIFFUSION R800/70 distributed data processing system with three Writaway handprint terminals. Contract value £116,500.

Code planned for employing homeworkers

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

A CODE of conduct which companies employing homeworkers will be asked to comply with when dealing with the Greater London Council has been drawn up by council officers.

The code covers pay rates, equipment safety and health and was requested by the council's supplies and contract services sub-committee.

It has yet to be studied by the committee which purchases not only for the GLC, but some borough councils within and outside its area. The committee

spent £167m on purchases in the 1978-79 year.

One of the principal elements of the code affects piece work rates for homeworkers whose general pay and conditions have been attacked by unions and other groups as "sweated labour."

The report says piece work rates should be the same for all homeworkers doing the same work. Companies using homeworkers would be told to ensure that they are complying with this when tendering for GLC contracts.

Because of variations in piece rates and the difficulty of monitoring these and other aspects of homeworkers' working lives it might prove difficult for the council to use this aspect of the code.

The report also argues that homeworkers' pay should be as near as possible to those of factory rates. In many cases this would result in huge increases for homeworkers.

The report says that costs such as electricity, renting of machines, and postage should be reimbursed and that holiday

pay should be provided. The code also says that safety and health guidance should be given, together with better notice on work fluctuations and clearer tax arrangements.

The code is clearly designed as a tool by which the new GLC leadership can exert the council's considerable strength in improving homeworkers' conditions.

The council has a policy of using London contractors but the code would be applied to companies from outside the GLC area.

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UK NEWS—LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

Benn's performance wins prolonged acclaim

BY IVOR OWEN

BRUSHING ASIDE his narrow defeat in the deputy leadership contest 24 hours earlier, Mr Tony Benn yesterday demonstrated his continuing command over the conference.

He took on Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, over the status of MPs, and showed that he is no more ready to be bound by the collective decisions of the NEC than by those of a Labour Cabinet.

It was a virtuoso performance which won prolonged acclaim from delighted left-wingers. They had earlier given a frosty reception to the victor in the deputy leadership election when he launched a debate on Labour's alternative economic strategy.

Mr Healey stressed that the alternative strategy, with its emphasis on increased public expenditure and other reflationary measures, was supported by the entire NEC — including Tony and me — and appealed to delegates to unite behind it to ensure Labour's victory at the next election.

Mr Benn endorsed the need for unity but warned that attacks on Mrs Thatcher were empty rhetoric unless followed by constructive policies as set out by the party at the annual conference.

To cheers, he insisted: "We must not mislead people. We must not tell people that Labour ministers in office means a Labour government in power."

That would be deception, he said, and so too would it be to suggest that all would be well if only Mrs Thatcher and her ministers were replaced by Labour ministers and that the basic structure of wealth and power did not need to be changed.

"If we do that there will be no change," Mr Benn declared.

Like Mr Healey, who forecast an imminent rise in interest rates, he suggested that yesterday's dramatic fall in share prices could signal the collapse not just of the Government's economic policies but of the Government itself.

Mr Benn told delegates: "The



Benn: continuing zeal

market had suffered its biggest fall in living memory. To the delight of his supporters, he contrasted the effect of the television cameras switching from the City — "where they are gambling with the wealth of the nation" — to the Labour conference — "where we represent the people who create the wealth of the nation."

Mr Benn took up Mr Foot's challenge over the status of MPs when insisting that there must be unity between the annual conference and the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Turning to the Opposition leader, he commented: "I say to Michael we don't want puppets." That is the Labour leader's description of the role of MPs if they should be tied to conference decisions.

Mr Peter Shore, Labour's shadow chancellor, described the present economic situation as "very dangerous."

Not only had the British people lost confidence in the Government, but industry and the City had withdrawn their confidence as well.

Mr Shore declared: "That is why the collapse is taking place in the pound and on the Stock Exchange. That is happening now."

"When they have lost faith in Mrs Thatcher, surely, at last our chance has come."

Mr Shore expressed concern about the implications of the conference's decision to join with the TUC in declaring opposition to incomes policies.

Mr David Basset, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, warned that confrontation between the Government and the trade unions would take place if the Government pursued its policies.

He said: "The Tories are becoming us into conflict. They would sooner fight with us than with the problems of this economy. If they are determined to impose a 4 per cent pay limit on public sector workers, they are seeking confrontation."

"If they go ahead to hive off parts of nationalised industries, it is they who are seeking confrontation."

Some delegates applauded when Mr Benn referred to lunchtime reports that the stock



WHETHER THE LEFT: a pensive moment on the platform yesterday for Judith Hart, Michael Foot and Ron Hayward

Councils urged to defy spending restrictions

BY IVOR OWEN

DELEGATES CALLED upon all sections of the Labour movement to back a campaign of mass defiance against Government plans to restrict the power of local authorities to increase their rates.

The reservations, advocated by the moderates on the NEC, were swept aside. An emergency resolution, moved by Mr Ted Knight, militant leader of Lambeth council, was carried by an overwhelming majority.

It urged Labour-controlled councils to refuse to make the cuts in services needed to "balance the books," and appealed to trade unions to "use their strength" to defend the town hall rebels.

Miss Joan Maynard, the left-wing Labour MP for Sheffield Brightside, assured delegates that the NEC would do its best to prevent Labour councillors who defied the law suffering the "sell out" inflicted on the Clay Cross councillors when they blocked council house rent increases imposed by the Heath Government.

"We shall rescind surcharges and consequent disqualification which may be imposed for action within the competence of local government," she promised.

But Miss Maynard acknow-

ledged the difficulties in securing the implementation of such a pledge when she sought to give a commitment "on behalf of the next Labour government."

Underlining the uncertainties still remaining over the extent to which the NEC writ can run, she said: "We shall do our very best to get that commitment in the manifesto."

No such hesitation appeared in a NEC statement—also overwhelmingly approved—which looked to the next Labour government to take retrospective action to remove any penalties imposed on Labour councillors.

Sanctions such as surcharges and disqualification would be removed "for all action" other than gross financial negligence, corruption or acts clearly in conflict with the law.

Miss Maynard admitted that the effects of the Clay Cross episode — "when we let our own people down" — were still "boomeranging around the country."

"That is why our comrades in local government do not feel very confident in doing certain things. They are not sure we will back them if they are surcharged," she said.

Mr Knight contended that the legislation to be introduced

by the Government in November was designed to destroy the programmes of housing, education and social welfare which Labour councils had built up over generations.

In taking powers to determine the expenditure ceiling for every local authority in the country, Mr Michael Heseltine, the Environment Secretary, hoped to "protect his friends in industry and commerce" from meeting their full responsibility for the cost of local services.

Mr Knight maintained that it was not enough for delegates merely to condemn Mr Heseltine and then wait for the next general election.

"I think we must say to Heseltine and to this Tory Government that Labour councils are not going to balance the books at the expense of workers' jobs, social services, education and the rest," he added.

Mr Knight argued that conference must face the question whether the Labour movement would have to say that "Heseltine and Thatcher's law" was too high a price to pay.

With some 250,000 jobs likely to be lost if the Government's expenditure limits were observed, he appealed to "comrades in the trade unions

to stand firm and back the councils which decide to fight Heseltine."

Mr Gerald Kaufman, Labour's environment spokesman in the Commons, accused Mr Heseltine of seeking to set himself up as the commissar of local government.

He promised that Labour MPs would fight the legislation curbing the revenue-raising powers of local authorities "with every weapon open to us within the law."

Mr Robin Cook, MP for Edinburgh - Central and a spokesman on Treasury affairs, said the Government had used its expenditure axe against the Lothian council in a trial run before subjecting the rest of the country to the same treatment.

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NEC election results expected to show gains for right

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER, LABOUR EDITOR



AT RISK: Dix

AN IMPORTANT shift in the balance of political power on the NEC is expected to materialise when results of the annual elections are declared today at the conference.

After the votes were cast last night, both left and right were forecasting that at least three seats could go to the right, mainly as a result of a new mandate in the big engineering workers' delegation.

A change of this order would greatly strengthen the hand of the moderates who, on Sunday, with the help of some Tribune MPs, narrowly staved off Mr Tony Benn's bid for the deputy leadership.

The most vulnerable sitting executive members were thought to be Mr Norman Atkinson, party treasurer, Mr Charlie Kelly

of UCATT in the trade union division, and Mrs Margaret Beckett in the women's division.

They are on a target list of seven names drawn up by a group of right-wing union leaders before the conference. But the coalition is unlikely to have been strong enough to make a clean sweep.

Also vulnerable is the union representative Mr Bernard Dix of the public employees and Mrs Joan Maynard or Mrs Renee Short in the women's section. But the miners' representative, Mr Eric Clarke—another name on the so-called hit list—will probably survive.

Constituency party anger at the abstentions by the left-wing MPs Mr Neil Kinnock and Miss Joan Lester in the deputy

leadership ballot could mean a sizeable drop in their support in the PLP division.

The Benn-Healey contest has divided the left majority on the 29-strong executive. It has also put new determination in the trade union right to end the long left-wing domination of the party's governing body.

The main instrument for the change is the engineering section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUWE) which has altered its rules, partly to ensure that its conference delegations support the entire right-wing slate this year.

Last year, the AUWE leadership was unexpectedly defeated by the union delegates and over 900,000 votes (£75,000 this year) went to the left.



AT RISK: Atkinson

shadow cabinet colleague Mr Stan Orme, were also said to support the principle of the statement.

Other members of the Tribune group were planning a new move for today aimed at dissociating themselves from Mr Benn if he tried to stand again.

Given the growing hostility of left-wing MPs, towards him, and the reluctance of some of the unions who supported him to see another contest next year, Mr Benn may decide that in the long-term it would be better for him not to force the issue next year.

But he might now find it very difficult indeed to stop his own bandwagon.

Meanwhile, the Labour Solidarity campaign, the group set up earlier this year to counter the left's gains in the party, yesterday warned its supporters that they must expect "increasing intolerance and hysteria" from the "hard left" in the months ahead.

It accused the "bully boys" of launching a "vicious attack on those whom they seek to blame for defeat."

The campaign, which in the last few months played a major part in Mr Healey's election campaign, also repeated that there would have to be changes in the way future Labour leaders were elected, so as to avoid a repetition of the events of Sunday, "widely recognised as a tragedy of democracy."

There must, it said, be a genuine democratisation of the party, giving a real voice to every member.

The campaign stopped short of demanding specifically that the principle of "one member, one vote" should be extended to the trade union section of the electoral college. But it stressed that unions should do everything possible to confine their voting to Labour Party supporters.

Pledge to abolish fee-paying schools

BY JOHN HUNT

A TUC POLICY document pledging a future Labour Government to abolish all fee-paying schools was approved on a card vote.

The card vote was called for to underlie the need for the promise to be included in Labour's next general election manifesto.

Delegates also approved a motion from the Socialist Education Association, calling for a comprehensive system of education, training and employment for youngsters between the ages of 16 and 19. Those taking part in these schemes would receive an "adequate minimum wage."

Also approved was a resolution to remove full cost fees imposed on overseas students and one calling for a system of pre-school education to be provided by the state for under-fives.

All the proposals received the backing of Mr Neil Kinnock, MP for Bedwely, who is the party's spokesman on education.

The TUC document said a Labour Government "must immediately terminate all public support for private schools, and in the longer term, abolish fee-paying, in order to

provide an entirely free education service for all."

The initial move of a Labour Government, it said, should be to impose Value Added Tax on private school fees in its first Budget.

A later Education Bill should forbid private schools to charge fees for new admissions.

Mr Kinnock said the resolutions would provide a firm basis to implement party policy on private schools and education for 16 to 19-year-olds.

"There can be no retreat on this, no opting out," he declared.

He said the TUC plan would "realise the decades-old desire of socialists and egalitarians to end the system of purchasing advantage which is the very root of privilege in this country."

"It is not the policy of envy. It is the policy of equality," he added.

Delegates gave a big reception to Mr Stan Bowden, who is Labour candidate in the crucial forthcoming by-election in Croydon North-West. He told them that Labour would restore the education budget, so that Britain would once again be spending more on schools than on armaments.

Nationalisation of banks promised by Hart

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

A PROMISE that the next Labour government would take control of Britain's financial institutions in order to serve the people, was given to the conference by Dame Judith Hart, MP for Lanark, speaking on behalf of the NEC.

The conference was considering a resolution calling for public control of the banks, insurance companies, building societies, major monopolies and private companies. Compensation would be made "based on proven need."

Nevertheless, Mr Hart asked the movers, Aberdeen South Labour Party, to remit the resolution back to the NEC. She pointed out that the subject was already under discussion within the party.

"We will report to you next year on how we can find a way through some of these problems," she declared.

But the sponsors, refused to remit the resolution, and a card vote was held. The result will be declared today.

Moving the resolution, Mr Bob Maudslon said there were 3m unemployed, yet the banks and other financial institutions

had made huge profits. Mrs Muriel Turner, of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said that her union, which had a large membership in the finance industries, was strongly opposed to nationalisation, and believed it could lead to large-scale unemployment within those industries.

Changes sought in voting rules

LABOUR'S controversial electoral college—which has just been used to elect Mr Denis Healey deputy, leader of the party—is under renewed attack.

Mr Terry Duffy, moderate leader of the powerful Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, will make a bid this week to get the conference to change the college. He wants MPs to have more say, and is pressing for the parliamentary party to get half the college votes, with the rest shared equally between unions and constituencies.

There was an attack on the media, the Common Market, the Stock Exchange, and veiled criticism of right-wing Labour Ministers. Although much of this had been heard before, it was all greeted with rapturous applause from his supporters, and many of them rose to give him a standing ovation as he sat down.

No doubt about it: Mr Benn was the clear victor in this first skirmish with Mr Healey since the fight for the deputy leadership.

Mr Healey had made the rudimentary error in political tactics of allowing his opponent to have the last word. A dangerous thing to do, particularly when your enemy is a wily operator like Mr Benn.

John Hunt

Left-wing groups determined to keep the pressure on

BY ELINOR GOODMAN

LABOUR'S left-wing pressure groups yesterday pledged to continue their long-term fight for control of the party and in the short term to seek revenge on those left-wing MPs who, by abstaining in Sunday's deputy leadership contest, ensured Mr Healey's victory.

A daily briefing sheet, the Socialist Organiser, distributed by a Trotskyist group, yesterday called on delegates to "ditch the abstainers." They want to deny support in today's elections for Labour's NEC to those candidates who abstained in the deputy leadership contest.

The group named Mr Neil Kinnock, who last year polled very well in the election for the constituency section of the NEC—Miss Joan Lester and Dame Judith Hart.

The briefing sheet, like several others handed out yesterday, also made it clear that, in public at least, the left is determined to claim Sunday's result as a moral victory and a justification for continuing the fight.

The right-wing, they said, had failed. The question now was how to building on the "49.5 per cent vote for left-wing policies." The basic target, they argued, must be to organise the left in the trade unions where Mr Benn's support was relatively weak.

Another far-left briefing sheet, the Socialist Newsletter, made much the same point, claiming that but for the "shameful abstention of Silkin, Kinnock and Lester and other members of the Tribune group," Mr Benn would have won. "Everyone is asking—will the fight go on? The answer has to be yes."

Mr Healey, they insisted, was a "self-confessed enemy of entire areas of party policy." His 0.8 per cent margin over Mr Benn was no mandate to "overturn party democracy and policy."

The Rank and File Mobilising Committee for Labour



ELECTION BLUES: Narrowest of winners Denis Healey with left-threatening left-winger Neil Kinnock, under attack for abstaining in Sunday's deputy leadership poll.

Democracy, one of the organisations most closely involved with the Benn campaign, was slightly more circumspect in its public statements. But in private, most members of Mr Benn's campaign team were arguing that he should stand again.

The left is determined to claim Sunday's result as a moral victory and a justification for continuing the fight.

The only question seemed to be the timing of announcing a new challenge. No announcements are likely to be made for several months. If Mr Benn does how to pressure from his supporters to stand again, he may well justify his challenge on the grounds that either the shadow cabinet was again failing to carry out party policy or that further defections to the SDP had invalidated Sunday's

result. A more immediate indication of Mr Benn's tactics is likely to come next month when, after consultation with his supporters, he announces whether he is prepared to stand for the shadow cabinet.

Yesterday the mobilising com-

mittee produced a list of the members of the NEC who at Sunday's meeting of the executive failed to support the left's proposal for abolishing the parliamentary leadership's existing veto on the contents of the manifesto. The list was published without any precise instructions to delegates on what to do with the information it contained.

The six said they believed the objective of beating Mr Healey could have been achieved by another candidate from the left. The statement was signed by Mr Jeff Rooker, Miss Sheila Wright, Mr Guy Barnett, Mr Andrew Bennett, Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, and Mr Martin O'Neill.

Thirteen other Tribunes, including Mr Silkin and his

Unity and the search for the Holy Grail

FRESH FROM his hair's breadth victory in the Labour deputy leadership race, Mr Denis Healey yesterday wound up his opening speech in the economic debate with a rousing call for party unity. Put the divisions of the last two years behind us, he advised delegates, who listened in respectful silence. Unite and give absolute priority to the task of defeating Mrs Thatcher.

At the end he received a modest but not overly enthusiastic ovation. But within a few minutes, there was a graphic illustration of just how fragile this much-sought-after unity is: rather like the Holy Grail disappearing as soon as the faithful reach out to grasp it, the earnest bespectacled figure of Mr Ray Apps appeared on the rostrum. What is it about the genteel atmosphere of this regency resort, which produces these harsh doctrinaire men of the far-left?

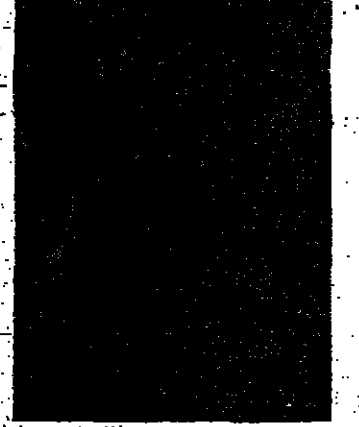
Mr Apps, a regular performer on these occasions, declared: "I have listened carefully to the speech of Denis Healey. I found no indication whatsoever that he had learned any of the lessons of the experience of the last Labour Government."

He promised that Labour MPs would fight the legislation curbing the revenue-raising powers of local authorities "with every weapon open to us within the law."

Mr Robin Cook, MP for Edinburgh - Central and a spokesman on Treasury affairs, said the Government had used its expenditure axe against the Lothian council in a trial run before subjecting the rest of the country to the same treatment.

The cuts imposed had not been to eliminate waste or curb bureaucracy but to make the poor accept sacrifices in order to make more money available for further tax cuts for the wealthiest members of the community.

Mr Naidoo, the white-collar local government union, which is not affiliated to the party, later issued a statement attacking Mr Heseltine's plans for referendums before increases in local spending are enforced.



Audrey Wise

Not only had Mr Healey been the first Chancellor to embrace monetarism; he was also guilty of initiating cash limits. As the indictment continued, Mr Healey did his well-known impersonation of the Demon King, raising his eyebrows and grinning ferociously.

With these fraternal matters out of the way, there was a demonstration of what the conference thought of Mr Healey's warning that a future Labour Government would lose credibility if it tried to do too much too soon.

Mrs Audrey Wise, the former Coventry MP, pressed a motion calling for the party to commit itself to a lowering of the retirement age with full pension rights, an immediate 35-hour week without loss of earnings; a ban on systematic overtime; lower interest rates; control of the export of capital; raising consumption by increased wages, pensions, social benefits and public expenditure; selective import controls and extra holidays for all.

Despite the opposition of the NEC, this extravagant shopping list was overwhelmingly approved.

The big attraction of the debate, however, was the appearance of Mr Tony Benn, the runner-up in the deputy leadership stakes. The roar that greeted him as he rose as the final speaker left no doubt where the sympathies of the majority of constituency delegates lay.

There was an attack on the media, the Common Market, the Stock Exchange, and veiled criticism of right-wing Labour Ministers.

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John Hunt

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FINANCIAL TIMES REPORT

DUDLEY

Focal point for development

BY LORNE BARLING

WHATEVER the ultimate benefits or problems created by Dudley's new Enterprise Zone, its designation has brought about a major reappraisal of the borough's industrial future and placed Dudley firmly in the forefront of public debate about the decline of manufacturing in the West Midlands.

With unemployment in the area having risen faster than in any other part of the country, and Dudley itself one of the worst hit, there is clearly an urgent need for a new perspective. No longer is it very different from other problem areas of the country.

There is no doubt that the creation of an enterprise zone is a very small gesture towards the regeneration of Midlands industry, and at a time of widespread industrial contraction is likely to have little impact, but it may indicate the right direction for the future.

Although there has been considerable opposition to the scheme, mainly from small companies surrounding the area which believe they may suffer from unfair competition, many of these opponents are now prepared to wait and see if there are any benefits.

Since the terms of operation within the zones were announced by the Secretary for the Environment, Mr Michael Heseltine, it would appear that the Government action has been justified in many ways. The rates burden is now the major constraint on Midlands industry, according to the Confederation of British Industry, and a rates holiday is one of the main planks of enterprise zone policy.

But the real problem in determining the true value of the Dudley zone is caused by the abnormal economic conditions in which it has been launched. Industrial invest-

ment, property values, manufacturing output and labour demand are all at unusually low levels, and in many ways those involved in the zone are making an act of faith.

It is of course likely that the owners of property within the zone will make profits, as will developers, but they point out that they have shown willingness to take the risk of building new factory space while thousands of square feet are lying empty outside the zone. Predictions of premium rents within the zone have so far proved unfounded, according to local agents, but this could still happen if demand picks up.

However, the most important aspect of the zone's future is whether it achieves its desired effect of attracting industry from other parts of the country, and from abroad, to bolster the local economy. There are fears that a high proportion of the zone companies may eventually be those which have moved across the "border," with little real benefit locally.

In this respect, much depends on the image which zones achieve nationally, and whether they are promoted effectively abroad at a time when competition for foreign investment, particularly from the United States, is very severe.

The recent announcement that Herman Smith, the Dudley-based aerospace and motor components manufacturer, is to set up a joint production company in the zone with Hitco of the U.S. is therefore encouraging. The new concern, with initial capital of around £750,000, will produce advanced composite structures for the aerospace industry and create around 300 jobs by 1985.

The true benefits of operating within a zone, such as those relating to tax and capital allowances, have yet to be fully

tested by large companies which could stand to make substantial savings on certain operations. Until such a company moves into the zone, it will be difficult to determine the real benefits.

However, those promoting the zone believe it should be seen in the context of Dudley's development and the problems it has experienced over the past decade, during which unemployment has risen from around 3 per cent to more than 15 per cent, one of the highest figures in the West Midlands.

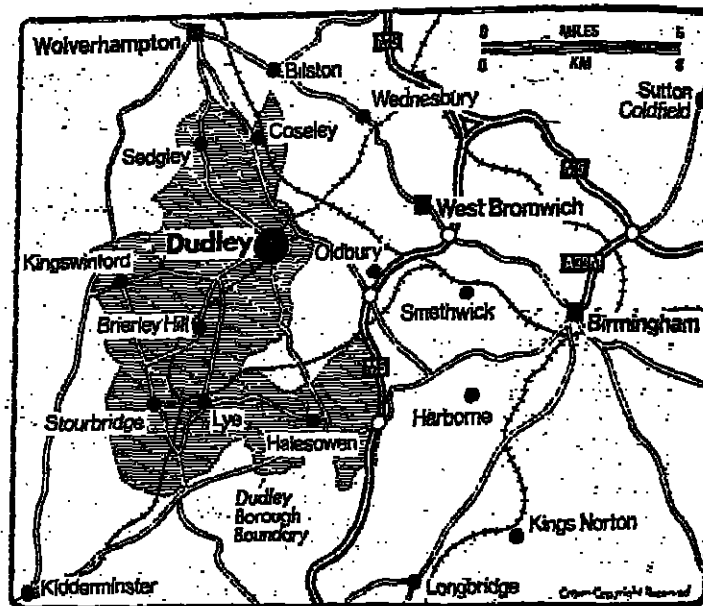
Historically, Dudley is a notable industrial area and the "capital" of what is known as the Black Country, the region which got its name from extensive coal mining and iron smelting activities which began with

the industrial revolution.

The administrative area of Dudley now covers 38 sq. m. and has a population of around 200,000. Employment is mainly in metal industries, which developed from the original local activities, but now efforts are being made to extend the spread of industry, taking in higher technology and reducing the risk of over-dependence on a few sectors.

The borough council is increasingly pre-occupied with the need for industrial stimulus, and this has been designated as a "key issue," with increased funds being made available for research and promotion. It is hoped that the enterprise zone will be a focal point for far wider development.

Industrial stimulus is a key issue in the Black Country's "capital". The borough's enterprise zone is seeking new industries to create jobs and reduce the risk of over-dependence on a few sectors.



Small companies offer best growth prospects

THE RECESSION has brought a series of painful blows to industry in and around Dudley, which has in any event experienced a steady loss of jobs over the past 10 years. The prospects of growth now lie with the numerous smaller concerns in the area.

Although almost all these companies have managed to survive a difficult period, often by making the position clear to their workers and cutting costs wherever possible, they remain heavily reliant on Midlands industry as suppliers of components and materials such as steel.

About 40 per cent of industry in Dudley is concerned with metal production and processing in one form or another, while a further 20 per cent are in other manufacturing, and a high proportion of companies employ less than 100 people. Much of industry owes its

existence to Dudley's traditional activities, namely metal-smelting and coal-mining, but with the demise of these trades there was diversification into related skills. It then became the country's components capital — moulding, forging, and casting metals for many purposes, mainly in the vehicle industry.

It has now moved a stage further and is dominated by metal working industries, engineering and fabrication. But there are other influences from the past, such as the continued production of bricks, once used in volume for refractory linings, and glass and crystal glass manufacture in the Stourbridge and Brierley Hill area.

This long history of industrial change has left Dudley with a somewhat disordered road network, an extensive but hard-to-maintain system of canals, and

the problem of old mine workings. The local authority therefore has a difficult job on its hands in trying to stimulate industry after so many years of unplanned development.

One of the area's most important assets is a high proportion of skilled labour, which comprises more than 40 per cent of the working population of 156,000. Of these, nearly 50,000 are involved in manufacturing and about 5,000 in construction. A further 20,000 are employed in transport and distributive trades.

It is a matter of concern, however, that such a high proportion of skilled workers are trained in metal and engineering trades, since this does not encourage the growth of the higher technology industries, particularly electronics, so badly needed to stimulate growth locally. The availability of factory

premises is not a constraint on growth since more than 2m sq. ft of industrial space are now available, and much more within the enterprise zone is now being built. Moreover, much of this space is modern and in a wide range of unit sizes.

It is therefore a priority to attract more industry to make up for the recent closures and cutbacks, such as the loss of around 1,000 jobs at the Round Oak steel works, nearly 2,000 at the Marsh and Baxter food plant, which recently closed, and many more redundancies at companies such as BSR, TI Tubes, the Dupont Group and the BSC Alphasil works, where 650 lost their jobs. The slimming down of BL has also had an effect on the area.

But there are a number of well-established concerns in Dudley, some with problems, but many are confident of riding

out the recession and ultimately increasing their capacity. Some of the better-known companies in Dudley are Parkinson Cowan (boiler manufacturer), Alcon, Cooper Industries, CMT Industrial Supplies.

In glass there are Royal Brierley, Stewart Crystal and Webb Corbett, while brick manufacturers include Gibbons and Istock.

One of the constraints on industrial growth, council officers believe, is the competition from assisted areas elsewhere in the new country, since Dudley can offer no financial inducement to new companies other than in the enterprise zone.

For this reason, it has been suggested that the Department of Industry should make more use of its discretionary powers under Section 8 of the Industry Act to make grants to relocating companies.

units have been made available for them at relatively low cost. But the growth of these companies is inevitably slow, and significant benefits may take years to appear.

Overall, Dudley has an uphill struggle ahead to regenerate local industry, but by being chosen for an enterprise zone it has a great opportunity to focus national attention on itself.

The opposition to the zone has been voiced on understandable grounds, but it now seems to have been wisely recognised that it could be an important catalyst. Should the zone eventually create 10,000 new jobs, it would certainly be of more benefit than harm to the rest of industry in Dudley.

On the other hand, the rates levy in Dudley, where the rise in industrial rates was only 20 per cent this year compared with more than 50 per cent in some West Midlands areas, is regarded as a potential attraction. For this reason, efforts are being made to restrain further increases as much as possible.

Overall, there is grounds for optimism that areas such as Dudley, where unemployment is as bad as in many of the worst black-spots, should no longer be treated as part of the "prosperous West Midlands" but given special attention before conditions deteriorate further.

The council recently stated in a policy document: "It is foolish to suggest that the future prosperity of Dudley is assured. There is much in the present pattern of industries and the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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DUDLEY II

Property market depends on zone's success

THE IMPACT of the Dudley Enterprise Zone will be watched with close interest by property and land owners in the area. Many of whom stand to gain or lose considerably if various predictions prove to be correct. However, it seems likely that in the long term the effects will be less drastic than many now believe.

The zone is notably different from those in other parts of the country, since almost all the development land is privately owned. The three largest companies concerned, Round Oak Steel (owned by the British Steel Corporation), Dysons Refractories and M. and W. Grazebrook, own nearly 50% of the 538 acres of land available.

Overall, nearly 20 companies have land on the site, and each is approaching development in its own way. A. and J. Mucklow, a well-known local construction company, was obviously suited to carry out its own development and the first phase of its Enterprise Estate is virtually complete after a fast start.

Other landowners are moving

more cautiously, since they do not have development experience and are examining the various options, ranging between financing the construction of new factories (sometimes for their own use) and sale of the land, although this is unlikely at such an uncertain stage.

Probably the most popular option will be to allow the construction of factories on their land, either by developers who will find or provide finance, or by companies wishing to build their own factories. However, those prepared to bet on the success of the zone by funding development will clearly stand to earn greater profits.

This aspect has been of concern to other property owners in the area, and fears were at first that values outside the zone would fall as those inside increased, but this has not proved to be the case so far. However, in the longer run there is likely to be a premium for the benefit of paying no rates for 10 years.

In the Dudley area generally,

a large volume of industrial space has come on to the market recently, as in the rest of the West Midlands, due to the recession and widespread factory closures. Demand for industrial property is therefore at a fairly low level, although not as low as some had expected, and it is unlikely that premium rents in the zone would be acceptable due to bargain rates outside.

According to Allsop Sellers, one of Dudley's most active agents, fairly modern factory premises of 20,000 sq ft and upwards are now available in Dudley at around £1.80 a sq ft, compared with £1.80 a few months ago. Units of below 5,000 sq ft, of the same age, are being let at around £2 a sq ft.

Against this, the first Mucklows units in the zone (of 2,433 sq ft) and admittedly new, are being rented at 2.45 a sq ft, and the company claims this is comparable to new premises of the same size outside the zone.

This illustrates that in the present depressed market, there are valid reasons for companies, particularly local ones, to opt for non-zone property, and that fears of an artificial distortion of the market are not borne out so far.

According to agents dealing with property in the zone, such as Edwards Bigwood and Bewlay, which is handling the Peartree Industrial Park for Crackley (a Glynwed company), inquiries are now strong, mainly from the West Midlands and the rest of the country. Only a few local inquiries have been received.

The first phase of the Peartree Industrial Park will offer nearly 90,000 sq ft of space in units ranging in size from 3,875 sq ft to nearly 25,000 sq ft and Edwards Bigwood is confident that this will be taken up fairly quickly. Mucklows similarly

optimistic about the prospects on the Enterprise Estate.

If this does prove to be the case, it could lead to rapid development of a large part of the zone, agents believe, since a combination of confidence in the zone and some recovery from recession could encourage land owners to approach the project more aggressively.

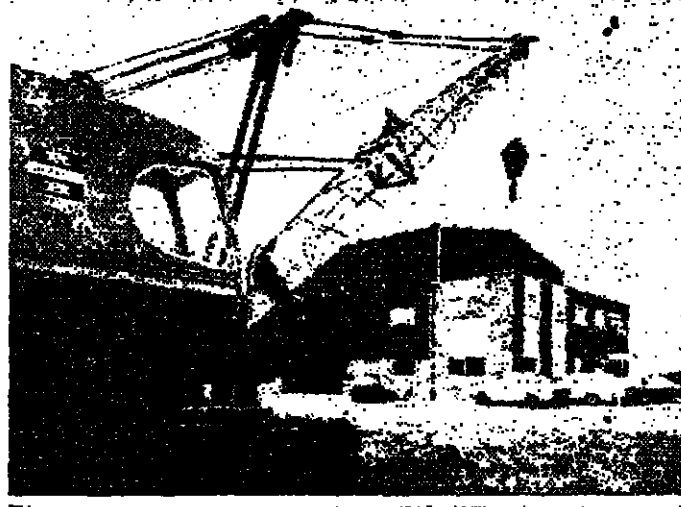
As it is, the level of national attention Dudley is receiving as a result of the zone, and the property marketing involved, has contributed to the number of property inquiries both inside and outside the zone, although the movement of some older property is extremely slow.

Rental levels in general have been declining slowly in recent months, although according to Allsop Sellers there have been small signs of improvement in the past few weeks. Demand for nursery units has remained strong throughout the recession, largely due to their short supply and the unwillingness of many developers to become involved in construction of them.

However, the redevelopment of the 11-acre Dunlop factory site by Sapote has provided some small units and there are other large sites in the area which could be made into smaller units. One of the largest is the 452,000 sq ft Dupont factory which is on the market at around £2m.

Other industrial estates in the Dudley area where space is still available include Perms Net, owned by LCP Properties, and Junction 2, at Oldbury, owned by the St. Martin's Property Group. Mr David Quinn, estates director of LCP and a strong opponent of the enterprise zone, believes that premium prices inside the zone have already appeared.

He said recently: "We have 400,000 sq ft of property outside the zone which is under con-



Top: the Olympia Testing Company's factory was the first to be completed in the enterprise zone. Above: a reconstructed Black Country village is the focal point of Dudley's museum

ditions are extremely difficult. Having built up an attractive business without outside help, we now find our competitors being subsidised."

In the somewhat limited office property sector in Dudley, rental prices have remained comparatively stable during the past year, at between £2 and £2.50 a square foot for modern accommodation. Falcon House, owned by the British Steel Corporation, is now about 75 per cent occupied, while there is space still available at Midland House in Halesowen, an air-conditioned building developed by the London Life Association in association with the Hill Samuel Life Group. Another recent develop-

ment was St John's House, which offers town-centre offices.

Overall, there is little office development now in progress, due to limited demand from white-collar employers in the area. In the longer term, however, successful growth of the enterprise zone would almost certainly boost this sector as associated administrative jobs followed industrial development.

The Dudley property market is therefore dependent in many ways upon the success or failure of the zone, and it is unlikely that success will create many problems, other than the ones most people are happy to have to deal with.

Lorne Barling

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High technology creates 300 jobs

THE IMPORTANCE of the Dudley Enterprise Zone to the recently announced Anglo-American partnership between Herman Smith and HITCO is that it will push it into the high technology field at a formative period of the Zone's development.

HITCO is a subsidiary of Armco, of Middletown, Ohio. It is a leading producer of advanced materials incorporating carbon and graphite reinforcing agents in conjunction with special thermosetting resins. To give an idea of its potential, the company supplied more than 2,000 lb of components to the U.S. space shuttle.

Herman Smith is a fourth-generation company also deeply involved in the aircraft, defence and electronics industries. It has been casting around for some time to find a partner to carry it forward as a key supplier to makers of successful Harrier jump-jet, the Jaguar trainer and other military and civil aircraft.

The exceptionally high strength-to-weight ratio of these advanced composite materials and components makes them eminently suitable for the aerospace industry. At present they are too expensive for the automotive industry, which is where the volume business lies; but as their price comes down so will the new company, Herman Smith HITCO, move into them.

Although the financial split of the partnership has still to be disclosed, its title assumes a majority holding for the Dudley company. Of more immediate importance, perhaps, is that it will have sole selling rights in the Common Market. The investment being sunk in the new factory is around

£900,000 and it will employ some 300 people by 1985. It also pushed Herman Smith over the boundary into the Enterprise Zone. Its three existing factories lie outside.

Mr Michael Herman Smith, chairman and, with his brother Robert, joint managing director, is convinced that the ability to offer the Americans the advantages of the zone clinched the deal.

The partnership between Herman Smith and HITCO is a major boost for Dudley. Peter Cartwright reports.

"The agreed time for completing the extension is 14 months. Mr Herman Smith is in no doubt that in the normal course of events this would have been almost impossible. Planning and other unavoidable delays would have ruled out such a tight schedule, even if the Government did not exert pressure to move such a potentially valuable unit to a development area."

Indeed, the project could have been placed elsewhere, but the land on which it is to be built is already owned by Herman Smith (with room for future extensions). The land had to be developed both to take advantage of the zone's financial benefits and to avoid any possible loss in value though being left undeveloped.

In this instance the cutting of planning and other red tape made all the difference in the attitude of the American partners. This is one of the lesser publicised benefits. What does come over loud and clear are the holiday from rates for 10 years from designation of the zone and the ability to offset the entire investment against future taxation. "It has given a great boost to the whole project," says Mr Herman Smith.

One criticism of Enterprise Zones is that they enable those inside to compete unfairly with those outside. Since Herman Smith has, or will have, one foot in and one foot out, how does this apply to the company? The answer is that the pro-

ducts the new factory will be turning out for the aerospace and defence industries will not have a competitor in the area, so no reasonable comparison is possible.

"Small businesses dealing in metal scrap and others like steel stockholding may have an advantage over others of comparable size outside the Zone since they will not have the extra overhead of rates within

the Zone," says Mr Herman Smith.

"But this Zone is in very severe competition with other Enterprise Zones and with the development and assisted areas, all of which can offer attractive advantages. In Dudley we are talking about a project as big as any nationally, bigger even than the National Exhibition Centre."

"Nor should it be forgotten that it will be competing against a lot of empty factories in Birmingham and the Black Country. Finally, the rental values, because of the site difficulties, will almost certainly be less attractive than those outside the Zone."

"So, as in any other enterprise, the pros and cons have to be worked out for each scheme to find where the benefits, if any, exist. But in Herman Smith's case they have been crucial in bringing the Zone's first high-technology project."

It also puts the company at an even greater technical distance from its origins as a typical Black Country maker of hearth furniture of a type popular until well after the 1939-45 war. The concern was founded in 1895 by Michael's and Robert's grandfather. The 1914-18 war brought a number of changes but compared with 1939-45 it was more of an interruption than a decisive break with the past.

The 1939-45 war took Herman Smith decisively into the air-

craft industry as a sub-contractor and this has remained one of its chief technical strengths. Since it began making Rolls-Royce engine parts for Spitfires and Hurricanes it has steadily developed into other components to match the widening demands of the defence and civil aircraft industries.

At the same time, the company keeps a continuity with its earlier years through fabricating a wide range of parts for vehicles domestic appliances and general engineering. The metal-working skills of Black Country men are an inheritance from the Industrial Revolution and the company lays great store by them.

Fifteen years ago the increasing specialisation of work made it advisable to split the company into divisions. Herman Smith (Precision Engineers) serves the aerospace, marine and defence industries in various alloys. The Presswork subsidiary is involved mainly with the road transport and domestic appliance industries and, like other suppliers, has been severely affected by the recession.

The third subsidiary, Electrical Engineers, well illustrates the company's pursuit of new markets, such as electronics, for its existing skills and plant. The Post Office and Defence Ministry are among its bigger customers.

Although a public company, its family strength is reflected in the fact that one in four of the 500 or so employees were trained within the group and that 50 have more than 30 years' service.

This strong identity with Dudley will be continued in the new company as far as possible. Substantial sums have already been spent on site investigations, consulting engineers and other services. There should also be a useful spin-off of work for the locality in the shape of jigs, moulds and fixtures.

The new work will call for graduates with chemistry and mathematics degrees and for stress-engineers. As many as possible will be recruited locally and a specially selected few will be trained at HITCO's factory in California.

Borough's focal point

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

legacy of problems that give cause for concern.

"The economy looks set to experience a further restructuring; the second phase of industries may begin to die out, and the vestiges of the first phase may die altogether."

"Dudley may remain the component capital of the country, but components will change. It has great assets. There is still land for development and skilled work people, but the tide is turning."

The council's policy and resources committee recently identified what it regarded as the key issues facing the area, the first being the promotion of employment, business activity,

industry and commercial development. It also identified the need to help the young unemployed.

The second priority was to improve and enhance the physical environment, including the appearance and use of buildings and land. It also sought to bring land forward for development and dispose of surplus council-owned land.

While a number of non-industrial priorities were also identified, among them greater assistance for old people, the main objective of council policy, it was suggested, should be to assist in the creation of jobs and greater business activity.

One of the sectors in which Dudley has lagged behind is

that of office development and white-collar jobs, which in other areas have tended to offset at least some of the trend away from manufacturing.

Although there has been some increase in service industries, Dudley's location has meant that it has not attracted insurance companies, administrative head offices, or similar providers of white-collar jobs in any great number.

The council therefore has a difficult problem on its hands. But by creating favourable working conditions for industry, both inside and outside the enterprise zone, it can do much to assist growth in the area.

Lorne Barling

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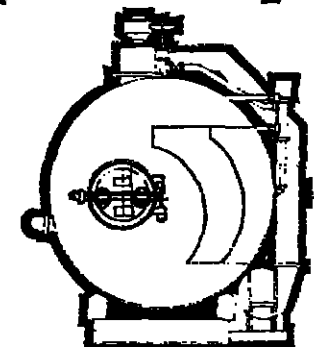
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THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

Devolution triumphs in Liverpool

Ian Hamilton Fazey on a change of management style that revived the fortunes of Bibby, the UK conglomerate

THE LAST major manufacturer still in Liverpool's city centre hit rock bottom in May 1970. The company was losing money, and with its 8.1m £1 shares going for 34p each, £3.75m would have bought the lot.

Boardroom shuffles ensued and the new managing director, then a 45-year-old former Courtlaids high flyer named Leslie Young, set about saving the company. In 1981, the interim results of the company, J. Bibby and Sons, the agricultural and industrial conglomerate, have bucked the nation's slump-ridden trends and a 50p share was fetching over £3 until the stock market's current fit of panic.

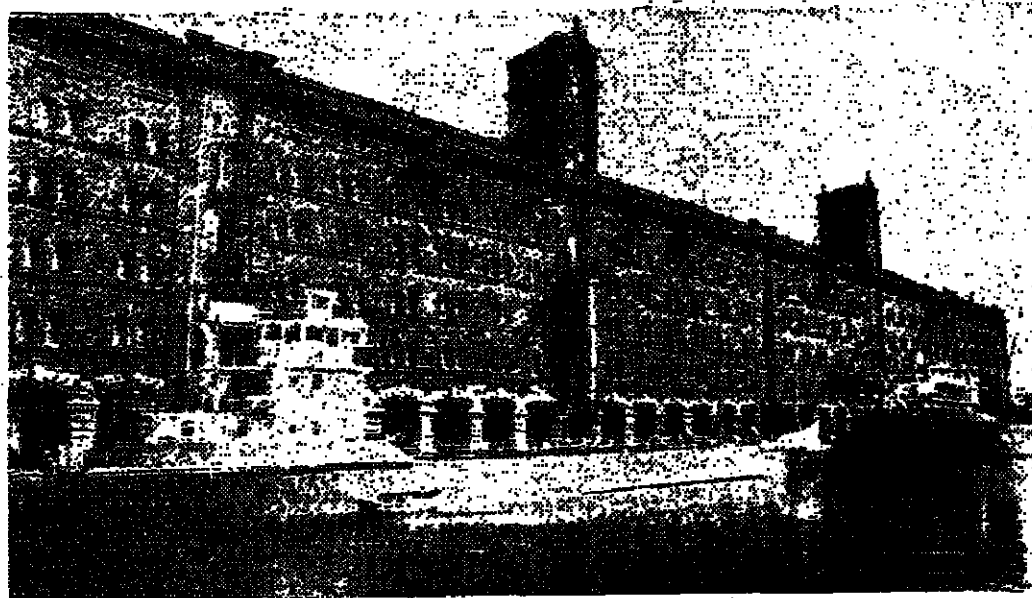
The chief architect of this transformation is generally acknowledged to be Leslie Young. As Robert Morton, an analyst with Simon and Coates, puts it: "His influence has been tremendous. Under him, Bibby has made good strategic decisions to get the framework right and has then devolved authority to middle management for them to get on with it."

"This shows up in things like a very dedicated sales force. There is strong commitment to Bibby right down the line."

Getting the framework right was a long and difficult process. Young's aim has been a swings and roundabouts mix for Bibby, so that new, high risks are balanced against older, profitable, but stable plodders.

Nowadays the Bibby's business is in animal feeds, agricultural seeds, milking, pig breeding, farming and turkeys—all in what it calls its agricultural group—and paper making, edible oils, and hospital and laboratory supplies in its industrial group.

On the way it has got out of groceries, sausage making, eggs and day-old chicks, sold off pig and chicken production in Italy, radically altered the manufacturing and marketing of its most staple products, and recently sold a packaging company after realising that its pur-



A. J. Bibby and Sons' warehouse in Liverpool docks

Hugh Routledge

chase was not going to bring hoped-for results.

This transformation has been achieved without a mass slaughter of the established management, but by building on existing middle management with the help of training and development programmes. Not only do recruitment difficulties in places like Liverpool make it impracticable to contemplate a complete change of management, but Bibby's very success questions the wisdom of such approaches anyway.

Young, now the executive chairman, was headhunted to the company in 1968. The Bibby family, worried by the company's performance, was after new blood from the ranks of successful, professional managers. Young's 19 years with Courtlaids had seen him rise to head the Gossard Holdings and Kayser Bondar.

Bibby brought him in to run its agricultural subsidiary, although Young knew hardly anything about farming at all. He was undeterred. "You've

got to learn the language and the market but in the final analysis you're in the money-making business, you're making a profit whatever you're doing. Found notes are the same whether you're producing curtains, cars, or running a service company."

He made enough impact with this philosophy to be put in charge of the whole Bibby group only two years later just as crisis was enveloping it.

The crisis arose because another part of Bibby's strategy had been to move into groceries through Princes Foods and pigs and chickens for the Italian market through Clip-Zoo. Things were going disastrously wrong. "They took on too much without enough thought for the management and other implications of what they were doing," says Young.

Young's elevation to the position of group managing director coincided with the early retirement of the then non-executive chairman, Mason Bibby, who thus "generously attracted a lot of undeserved opprobrium onto

himself," says Young. Ben Bibby, then production director, succeeded him, but reacted the chair to Young after the firm's 1979 centenary to pursue a career at the bar.

"Apart from getting quickly back into profit, we had to reshape ourselves and finance the company by better profit performance," says Young. "This meant substantial cost reductions, productivity increases, firmer pricing and marketing policies, as well as selective disposals of assets to generate immediate cash."

Princes Foods had to go, not because it could not easily be put to rights, but because with sales of £17m, it was too small to give Bibby a strong enough market position to make worthwhile profits. "It needed to be three times as big. To get there would have needed substantial capital and cash and starved all other activities," Young says.

The Rehan pasta group, Buitoni, happened to be looking for a ready-made food company in order to expand into Britain. Bibby kept the manufacturing

contracts for the edible oil products, thus ensuring the future of its factories.

Clip-Zoo, which was proving difficult to control because of language and political problems, was also sold, to the Spanish company, Liqueigas.

Underlying Young's whole approach, especially to motivating his management, was the setting of objectives that were plain to understand; the annual growth in earnings per share should at least equal the average achieved by the top quartile of British companies, and the managements of each of the company's activities should achieve profits of 20 per cent on capital employed.

The devolution of profit responsibility was part of a deliberate, new style of management. Young says: "I believe very much in opening up the organisation and encouraging people down the line to take decisions and be responsible for them. Before, all decisions were centralised. But there was a band of excellent middle management that was really the strength and backbone of Bibby. They were suddenly given the opportunity to make their contributions and that's what they have done."

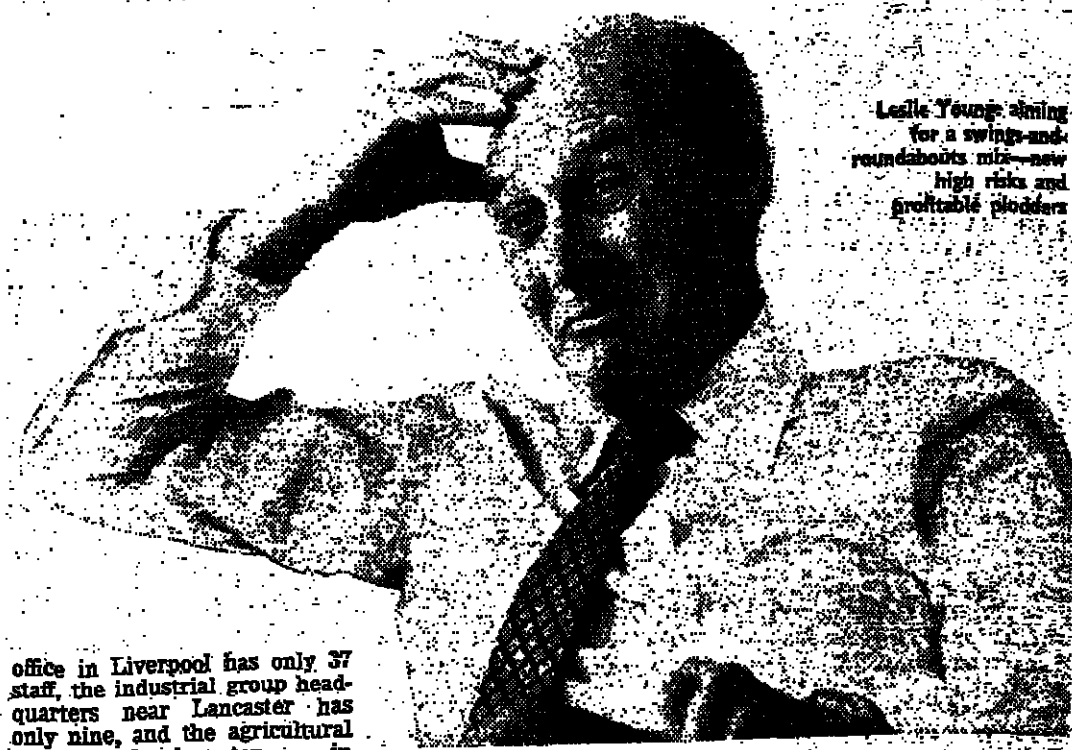
Motivation

"The strength of the Roman army lay in the key role of the centurion," says Young. "In everyday parlance, he operated a totally manageable unit. We have steadily decentralised Bibby into smaller, tightly controlled units where the senior manager in each operation is profit responsible and accountable."

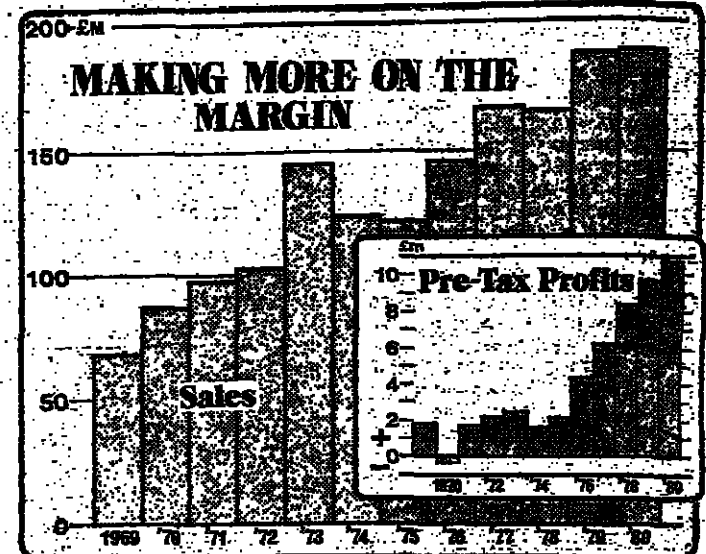
Since becoming chairman Young has split operational responsibility for the industrial and agricultural groups by appointing a managing director to each. The true state of managerial devolution is reflected in three startling figures: the corporate head

by 1979 and 41/58 in 1980. On sales, however, the old split remains apparent, with agricultural turnover accounting for 65 per cent of 1980's £190m.

But getting a more even balance is not just going to come from Bibby's internal managerial efforts. Its gearing was 30 per cent net borrowing to total funds employed in 1976; it is only 7 per cent now. The company has both cash and borrowing capacity to buy more companies for its industrial group and, hence, even more profits. Young admits to keeping a continuous lookout.



Leslie Young: aiming for a swings-and-roundabouts mix—new high risks and profitable plodders



business end of Liverpool's renowned orchestra appointed him to its management committee. He also helps to drum up finance for Chester Zoo.

But his most important appointment—say, from the community's point of view—has been that of chairman of the Merseyside Development Corporation, the body charged with bringing the

region's stagnant, dockland back from the dead. The tone, pace and style that Leslie Young will bring to the MDC will be critical. His influence on the Merseyside economy in the 1980s could even be more decisive than it has been for Bibby in the 1970s.

The only regret for many a Bibby-watcher will be that you cannot buy shares in the MDC.

A more even balance

and is also developing processed turkey products. Bibby's search for new growth can be seen in its industrial group, where the mature products of edible oils—themselves neatly balanced between vegetable oils and packaged fats—are complemented by a burgeoning in new markets for special papers, and hospital and laboratory supplies.

Its old paper mill, Henry Cooke, is an outstanding example of what can be done through investment in plant, and vigorous marketing

management. Its basic products—four and snax bags—have provided the bread and butter while the paper-maker has found new, specialised markets to develop and dominate.

Two of these products have won Queen's Awards—out of only four to be awarded to that industry. The mill has run at 100 per cent capacity throughout the recession.

Not everything has gone smoothly when Bibby bought the Clyde Paper Company, rescuing it from the receiver, it turned the company back

into profit but then realised that it could not return the required 20 per cent on capital employed. Young sold it.

It was Cooke's success in medical markets that led Bibby to its latest buy, a North East hospital and medical supplies company called Sterlin.

The industrial group managers are now in sight of another corporate goal: to match capital employed with the agricultural group. The percentage split, which was 30/70 a decade ago, was 38/62

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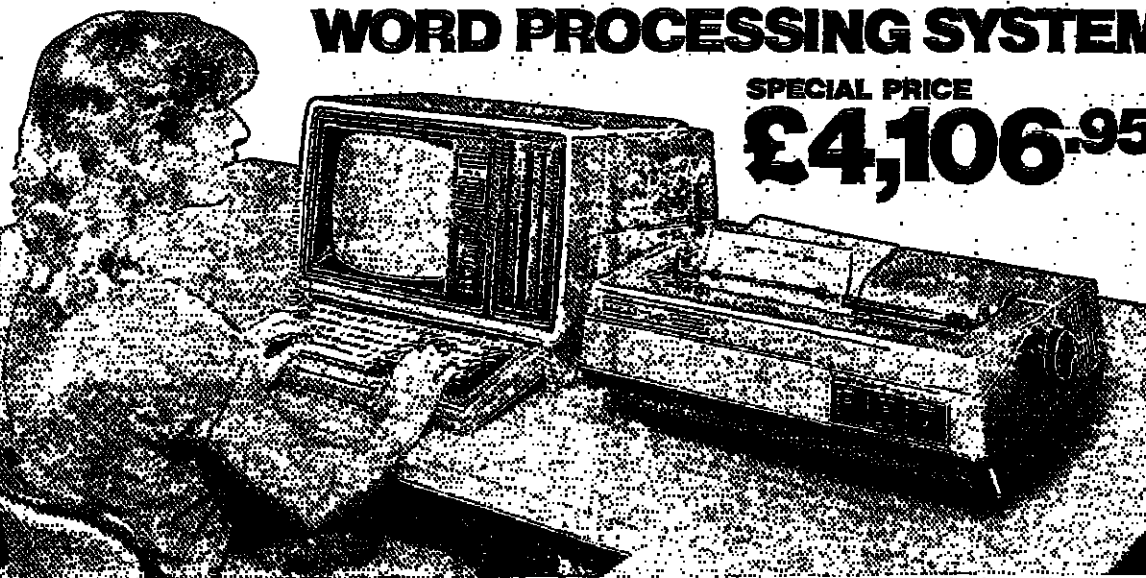
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Tuesday September 29, 1981

The flight into money

THE WORLDWIDE fall in security and commodity prices, which continued in a barely orderly fashion yesterday, is in its way quite a dramatic tribute to the power of monetary policy. An unyielding stance on the part of the Federal Reserve Board in the U.S. has in the crudest way restored the standing of money; investors are prepared to take sharp losses or increase their cash holdings. It has also aroused wide-ranging and justifiable fears about economic activity and financial security.

Dominant

In principle any determined stand against monetary inflation is bound to have some such effects, as we have already learned in a British national context, and in spite of these effects the U.S. Administration has wide international support in its general economic aims. However, the dollar is still such a dominant force in international financial markets that American actions have an impact quite out of proportion with the U.S. share in world trade and there is widespread criticism of the balance of U.S. internal policies. It is argued that exclusive reliance on interest rates to restrain credit growth has the maximal effect internationally as well as imposing possibly unnecessary internal problems.

It is certainly easy to suggest a range of measures, from spending cuts to a less favourable tax treatment of borrowing, or the imposition of direct credit controls, which might achieve the Fed's monetary targets at lower interest rates. Since high rates will also tend over time to pose increasing problems for weak borrowers in the developing world and for weak financial intermediaries within the U.S., present policies also carry a large risk of crises, possibly leading to expensive and inflationary rescue operations. The present efforts to refinance the U.S. savings and loan industry with various forms of subsidised or tax-privileged instruments is a forerunner of the ways in which a squeeze can prove self-frustrating.

There can be little doubt, then, that the U.S. representatives at the present IMF meeting in Washington will find

themselves under heavy international pressure in the next few days. Exactly two years ago similar pressure, on that occasion to persuade the U.S. to address the weakness of the dollar, led to the basic change in Federal Reserve tactics which produced the rise in interest rates.

The Administration may again wish to do what it can to soften the effects of its policies in the outside world, but find itself largely powerless to do so. It is already struggling to reduce the Federal deficit through expenditure cuts, but is meeting political resistance. Meanwhile, high interest rates add to Federal outlays.

The alternative route, through higher taxation, is not only against Administration policy, but painfully slow under the U.S. Constitution. A change in monetary policy, to take account of international portfolio demand for the dollar—effectively substituting a measure of domestic credit expansion for the present measures of liquidity—would undoubtedly be helpful technically, and would echo the old IMF rules for stable international adjustment; but any change at the moment might pose credibility problems. It is unlikely, then, that the crisis will be ended by any change in U.S. internal policies.

Alternative

However, there is no immutable rule which says that dollar interest rates must be transferred to the rest of the world; indeed, Japan already demonstrates the independence of a relatively controlled financial system. European rates have risen in response to dollar rates by choice; the rise has been either the result of official intervention to limit the rise of the dollar, or of action taken to check that rise without intervention.

The alternative which has always existed is to allow the dollar to find its own level in a free market, in which interest rates in other currencies reflect domestic and not international conditions. This free float has been abandoned largely because of the implications of a rising dollar for oil prices; in today's weak oil market, this argument has less force.

A warning for Mr Trudeau

MR PIERRE TRUDEAU, the Canadian Prime Minister, has won a pyrrhic victory in his campaign to make Canada master of its own constitution.

The Supreme Court of Canada yesterday ruled that the law, as it stands, allows him to submit for endorsement by the British Parliament the constitutional package which he put forward a year ago.

But the nine judges also found that there was constitutional convention which stood against his going ahead. So despite a set of findings which contains the danger of a bitter dispute within Canada and between Ottawa and Westminster.

Anachronism

Its roots lie in Canada's colonial history, in its federal constitution, and above all in the inability of the 10 Canadian provinces to agree on a mechanism for making fundamental changes to their constitution. When, in 1931 the Statute of Westminster granted full independence to the British Dominions, Canada alone among them asked that the ultimate right to amend the British North American Act of 1867, which serves as the Canadian constitution, should remain in Westminster.

The House of Commons select committee on foreign affairs has correctly described that residual colonial right as an anachronism. The only reason why it survives is that 50 years after the Statute of Westminster there still is no agreement between Ottawa and the provinces on an amending formula.

That is not for want of trying; the matter has been talked almost to death in countless federal provincial conferences. That is why Mr Trudeau last year decided to cut the gordian knot. He put together an amending formula which would allow the provinces to be heard, either through their governments and legislatures, or through referendums. He added a Bill of Rights and then got his Parliament subject to a final debate and vote yet to be held, to authorise him to submit this plan to Westminster where he expected it to be rubber-stamped.

All but two of the provincial governments united against that plan. They agreed last April on an alternative, amending formula which would get rid of the referendum as a means of obtaining, over their heads, provincial approval to future constitutional change.

They passed over the Bill of Rights because they were afraid that it would diminish the sovereignty of Parliament and their own provincial legislatures. More especially, Quebec objected to a clause which would have cut across parts of its own legislation ensuring primacy for the French language in Quebec.

Mr Trudeau's basic objective in deciding to go it alone was to get on with "nation building," meaning that he wished to check the centrifugal forces inevitable in a country as diverse as Canada. The divergent English and French, not to speak of substantial groups of immigrants from other European countries; the manufacturing industries of Ontario and Quebec against the resource-based economies of the West; the wealth of the oil-bearing provinces against the relative poverty of the East.

Toughest

Under pressure from the opposition, Mr Trudeau undertook not to submit the plan to Westminster unless the Supreme Court supported him in clear-cut fashion. Though he has shown signs of tiring, Mr Trudeau generally is at his toughest in adversity. He may now take the judges' syllable ruling to be the clear-cut authority he wants. First reactions from his Justice Minister, Mr Jean Chretien, support that suspicion.

That would not be in the best interests of the consensus upon which Canadian unity rests. It would also conjure up the danger of an acrimonious debate at Westminster, which would serve the best interests neither of Canada nor of Britain.

Mr Trudeau should fight his battle to the end in Canada, however elusive an agreement may be. Westminster should not have to settle an issue which the Canadian Supreme Court has left vague.

8.30 am. Brokers and jobbers start to assemble in their City of London offices. The mood is not cheerful. The London Stock Exchange has nosedived over the previous fortnight, along with most stock markets elsewhere in the world. Weekend press reports have been largely negative, with no-one willing to stick their neck out too far.

Worse, there is grim news from the Far Eastern markets, where the day's trading has already drawn to a close. Share prices in Sydney and Hong Kong have continued their slide. And the Tokyo stock market, which has a reputation for being much less volatile than the other Far Eastern markets, has moved sharply lower. The Tokyo Dow Average is down by nearly 300 points at 7,037, which sounds like one for the record books.

9 am. The brokers begin to get early indications of how the jobbers are going to open up their prices on the first day of the new fortnightly trading account. It looks as though most shares are going to be marked down by several pence.

Sterling gets off to an uneasy start, dipping at one point to the lowest level seen since October 1976. It then rallies a little against the dollar, but is still down by roughly 14 cents compared with Friday night's close: the trade weighted index for sterling has dropped half a point to 85.9.

9.30 am. The equity market starts trading, and the falls which were already evident in inter-office trading begin to accelerate. Prices are being cut in all directions, and the Exel stock exchange ticker, normally a model of sedate language, bursts into purple prose with its description of "Widespread and indiscriminate price-slashing."

The institutional dealing rooms of the big broking firms are beginning to see some business. Some report some quite heavy selling in the opening minutes; others insist that the institutions are holding steady—as they were reported to have done through most of last week. "We have been seeing three buying orders for every sell," one dealer states. However, even GPC, Plessey and Racal—glamour electrical stocks—are being savagely marked down.

On one point there seems to be widespread agreement: the heaviest weight of the selling has been coming from the private investor, and private sellers are again leading the market down this morning. Brokers hazard a number of different explanations. "They are at the sharp end: it's their own money they can see being drained away in these setbacks," says one. Another argues that the private investor still has very vivid memories of the crash of 1974, and that although there are wide differences between today's circumstances and those seven years ago, the small man has decided to protect his position.

But while the job of holding the bag—as "Black Joe" might say—has not been speculating on borrowed money to anything like the extent of the early 1970s. That should help to restrain the selling pressures.

10 am. The gilt edged market opens, with a resounding thud. Falls are general, and range to around half a point. The news money.

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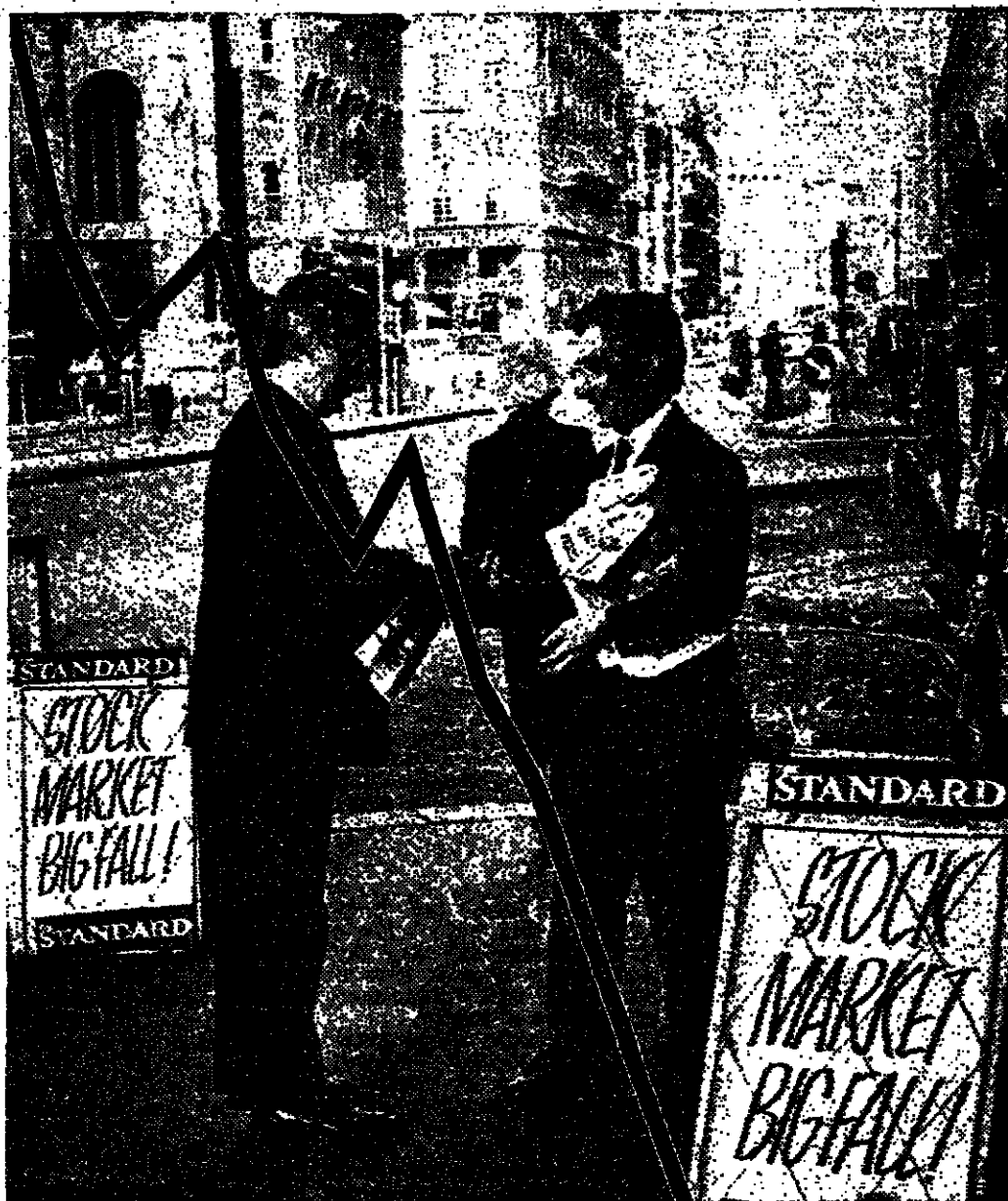
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MONDAY ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE

It could have been worse . . .

By Richard Lambert, Ian Rodger and Tim Dickson



THE SHARE SLIDE: How the FT 30-share index has fallen this month

Investors in unit trusts, who generally stayed calm last week, are selling in larger numbers. One or two major groups put up shutters while they hurriedly recalculate the prices of some of their funds. "It's extremely hairy," says one manager.

"Normally we would expect to make out about 300 contracts at the end of the day, most of which would be for people buying our units. I gather from our unit dealers that the figure today is likely to be about 400, most of them for people selling," says the manager of one major group.

Viewing gallery excitement

However there is a general feeling that the private investor has not been speculating on borrowed money to anything like the extent of the early 1970s. That should help to restrain the selling pressures.

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from the money market is that interest rates are continuing to push higher. Yields on three month Sterling CDs, for instance, have risen by more than a quarter of a point this morning to 16 1/2 per cent. How long can the banks hang on to their 14 per cent base rates?

Shortly after 10 am, the day's first reading of the Financial Times Industrial Ordinary Index—the widely quoted "30 Share Index"—comes pinging out of Bracken House on the tapes. It is down 23.6 points at 451.1. The statisticians again start groping for their record books.

The weight of selling seems to be easing, and activity in the institutional dealing rooms is nothing out of the ordinary. There are no great indications of dramas in the City: the sun is shining brightly on Throgmorton Street, and people are ambling around in their normal fashion. The only sign that something special may be happening comes when radio and television vans start to converge on the Stock Exchange Tower. The market has become a media event.

Maybe the worst is over? At

last, some blue marks begin to appear against the columns of red figures which dominate the television screens on the dealing desks. The institutions are nibbling, one dealer comments, flashing what does not look a very long list of buying orders.

Indeed the 11 am Index looks a tiny bit brighter: the fall has been reduced to 21.9 points. But it is a very brief respite. The red figures start to appear again on the screens, and it is clear that the whole market is shifting down to lower ground.

There is not much private selling now. "We are advising clients not to sell. It's already too late," says one broker. "Is anything going up?" "Interest rates, blood pressure," comes the reply.

"We are all waiting now for 3 o'clock and the New York opening," says one dealer. It seems clear that the mood on Wall Street is having a major impact on price movements in London—as it is elsewhere in the world. The prospect that U.S. interest rates are going to remain painfully high in the foreseeable future is the most frequently cited explanation for

the sell-off. As one broker explains: "Until recently, everyone thought that interest rates were coming down. But the end of the rainbow keeps receding."

But there are still some optimists about. "Our view is that U.S. rates may well be on the way down and Wall Street is building for a tremendous rise," says one broker, hopefully. Wall Street, he goes on, is critical. "If it doesn't fall today, markets could stabilise. But who knows what will happen next?"

What about the guru, Joseph Granville, who is reported to have forecast that today will see the most savage setback in the history of the New York Stock Exchange? The question tends to bring a nervous laugh, and the comment that of course nobody can take such wild projections seriously. But it is a talking point, and as one broker put it: "You have to be aware that a lot of people know he said that."

The Labour Party's brookhaha, by contrast, is not a subject of general discussion. "The outcome of the Healey-Benn battle will be the best possible result for the Conservative Party," one broker suggests. But there is a general feeling of depression about the Conservative Government's economic strategy.

Noon. The FT 30-Share Index is now down by no less than 28.4 points, and there does not seem to be a buyer in sight. Some of the big institutions are dribbling small amounts of money into the market, but most seem to be holding back. There seems to be little point in buying when prices are falling so fast.

As the morning wears on, more unit trust groups realise that they cannot any longer trade on prices quoted in the morning's paper—these are based on share prices from Friday lunchtime, and in the interval the Index has shed nearly 40 points.

"If we allow people to get out at this morning's prices they are effectively being subsidised by those who stay," says one manager. Several groups stop trading at 12.30 for a while to update their prices.

Over at the Stock Exchange, the viewing gallery is crowded with schoolchildren and television cameras. But again there is no evidence of drama or panic. The elegant young lady who describes the virtues of the market-place is sticking to her usual script. The floor of the exchange is no more crowded than usual, and there is no indication that anything untoward is happening.

Although prices have been marked down heavily, it is still possible to deal in everything. The system is taking the strain.

3.45 pm—Wall Street starts to recover. But still the tide phones do not ring. 5.30 pm—The FT 30-share index closes with a fall of 17.2 points at 457.5. On any normal day, that would be a startling setback. Today, it seemed, things could have been worse.

kept-out of the market during its mid-summer upsurge, and has been picking up a few lines of selected stock in the past few days. But it is pointed out that a number of big rights issues may have been left stranded by the big shake out. The institutions may have to keep some of their powder dry if they are going to be called on to take up large underwriting obligations.

In the event, though, it turns out that over 71 per cent of Trusthouse Forte's £87m rights issue has been taken up by its shareholders. In the circumstances, that looks a good result.

What will stop share prices falling? Most answers to this question centre around interest rates. "The gilt-edged market will have to stabilise," says one City man. "We need a clear feeling that interest rates are at or near a short-term peak," argues another.

Less tangibly, there is also a feeling that the market's fall has developed a momentum of its own—that price declines have been feeding on themselves, and creating further setbacks. Rather than requiring a particular event to change the mood, maybe the falls will just peter out by themselves. The market is discussed almost in terms that suggest it is an independent creature with a will of its own.

"Meanwhile," says one broker glumly, "the only thing that is not going down is the Stock Exchange lift."

3.00 pm—Is the dealing room of a major broker, just off the floor of the Stock Exchange, the opening on Wall Street is awaited anxiously. Already there has been a moderate recovery in the London market partly in response to announcement by Continental Illinois Bank that its prime rate would be cut.

The 'upstaging' of Coronation Street

But the Dow Jones Industrial Average opens down and is off 13 points by 3.30.

"Our market is just coming off the top again on the back of Wall Street," one dealer says, while another runs in from the floor of the Exchange cursing at the television news cameras.

"The Stock Exchange is going to upstage Coronation Street," he says. "It's getting so that you can't even sneeze without being reported."

Another chimes in. "Yeh, they're waiting for someone to do a parachute jump off the side."

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Men & Matters

Shocks'n'stares

God was in one of his ironic moods yesterday. As the tapes chattered out their tales of "Black Joe" and "Black Monday," the sun shone bright and cheery on the City streets. Inside the gloom-ridden Stock Exchange, the visitors' gallery seemed at times to be more crowded than the trading floor, while "buttons" of various colours nipped in and out through Chapel Court muttering with fragile hope of rallies which, heaven knows, were bound to gather strength sooner or later.

Where were the bright glimmers amid this encircling gloom? Where was the new Richard Whitney, prepared to step forward on behalf of a latter-day Morgan to place an order in confident commanding voice for "10,000 U.S. Steel at 205"?

The short answer was that if you did manage to cheer yourself up yesterday, you were in a well-defined minority. You might have discovered a half-forgotten holding in Hallite, just as the unknown raider began its dawn swoop. You might have been David Kay, potentially £2m to the good after selling his curtain-group Draperie to Reliance Knitwear and with a £25,000-a-year service contract to keep the wolf still further from the door for the next five years.

Or you might have been Terence Conran, father-to-be of the Habitat share issue for which prospectuses went out yesterday. Far from cruising the City looking for the tell-tale piles of disembowelled documents, or pressing his nose against the Stock Exchange glass, Conran spent yesterday conducting an "orientation" meeting for the firm's international buyers. "I'm getting back to managing Habitat," he told me, "it's not an ideal situation, but the issue is underwritten and we've got our

money."

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Daisy Hyams: counter revolutionary

director of Tesco (Wholesale) was back at her desk after a celebratory lunch to mark her 50 years with the supermarket.

It was on September 28, 1931, the day the late Jack Cohen opened his first shop in Burnt Oak, London, that Miss Hyams started work as his first office girl. Over the half century since, she has played a major part in the group's expansion.

By the time the 1939-45 War started, Miss Hyams was already proving one of the infant company's best assets. She was closely involved in Cohen's early ventures into farming, and in his canning, bottling and food-freezing enterprises. She helped organise a points ration scheme in Tesco's shops before the Government got round to introducing a general rationing system.

It was her skill and toughness as a buyer that was crucial to Tesco's pioneering development in this country of self-service stores and supermarkets after the war, and which has maintained the competitive

edge of the group's 500 stores. "It is still a very competitive and aggressive trade," she says, "for if money is tight, it is the housewife who looks for savings in the weekly food bill."

At the age of 68, Miss Hyams still works a full week as a director of Tesco's main board ensuring that the housewife's purse can be stretched as far as humanly possible—a policy that has doubled Tesco's share of the UK grocery market to 14 per cent since its Operation Checkmate started a High Street price war in 1977.

"I have no hobbies," she says. "This is it." Modestly forgetting to mention the £400,000 that her efforts to mark the company's golden jubilee have raised for charity this year.

Odds and ends

Ron Pollard, the Ladbrokes man who specialises in making weird and wonderful books on anything from general election results to the probability of flying saucers landing on earth, has just done his number-crunching for the Booker McConnell Fiction prize.

Muriel Spark's "Loitering With Intent" is Pollard's 7.4 favourite, followed by D. M. Thomas's "The White Hotel" at 3.1. Ann Schlee's "Rhine Journey" and Doris Lessing's "Sirian Experiments" are outsiders at 10.1 each.

For punters seeking a higher risk/reward ratio, Ladbrokes currently stands to lose around £500,000 if alien beings land on earth between now and December 27. Most of the 500-1 betting comes from a Californian sect which claims to have a "stable tip" from the elders of 52 other planets that the landing is imminent—though it should be said they have been doing the same sort of thing for the past 10 years.

Observer

Buchanan's

The Scotch of a lifetime



ZIMBABWE

Nearly 18 months after independence, much has been achieved in a country once racked by a guerrilla war. But the year ahead will be challenging as the Government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe grapples with problems of land resettlement, transport, shortage of skilled manpower and deteriorating relations with South Africa.

Time to tackle essential issues

By J. D. F. Jones
Southern Africa Correspondent

A RINGLEADER of Salisbury's pickpockets was interviewed recently by a local newspaper. "At the time of Independence, my gang stopped working," explained this Zimbabwean Fagin. "We thought that now that Zimbabwe was free the country was ours and there was no need to steal. We thought we could have all we wanted. But we soon learned that things were not as we had dreamed. So we started again."

There, in a nutshell, is the dilemma of a state whose independence is just 17 months old and whose citizens, survivors of a savage and racial civil war, are beginning to ask how long they have to wait for the radical, even revolutionary, changes that were promised by the victorious Zanu-PF Government led by Mr Robert Mugabe. It would be unfair to expect Mr Mugabe's Government to have transformed Rhodesia into

an utterly different Zimbabwe in the brief period since Independence Day on April 18 1980. Utopia is not available in a few months and the expectations of the 7m Africans have been adjusted since then. Just as the fears of the 200,000 Whites have been partially soothed. This survey is therefore no more than a progress report: but it suggests that the next year will be as critical, and as difficult, as the last.

The positive achievements of Mr Mugabe's Government are considerable. There have been no war trials, no anti-White campaigns, no purge of "Rhodesians" in senior positions and no nationalisation of farms or industry. After a couple of dangerous incidents in Bulawayo, the two guerrilla armies of Zanu (Mr Mugabe's Zanu-PF forces) and Zipra (Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zapu) seem well on their way to an astonishingly harmonious integration into a national army under a newly-appointed White commander. Security throughout the country is remarkable: peace has returned; it takes an effort to recall the turbulence of the last days of White rule.

Looking back, the priority had to be the re-establishment of peace and order. Ministers explain that their first year was dominated by these matters. Now, with the country secure, "we can tackle the problems we wanted to deal with when we came to power"—problems which essentially are economic. Granted, the Zanu-PF Government has found time to put through a collection of measures central to its manifesto—free

primary education and health care, higher minimum wages, a start to land resettlement. Nevertheless, a number of areas deserve to be highlighted, not so much because they have yet become dramatic crisis points but because they are areas where government policy should be closely watched in the months ahead.

Impatience

For example, the slow pace of the land resettlement programme. Less than 1,200 families have been resettled, and there is a growing impatience, demonstrated by the fact that some 50,000 people are now squatting on commercial farms. Land has always been the single most important issue in Zimbabwe politics: the war was fought "for" land if it was fought for anything. One has to ask whether the present programme, in which Britain is the major financial backer, can in the end amount to more than a drop in the ocean, so large is the problem of Zimbabwe's land-hungry peasantry, discussed elsewhere in this survey.

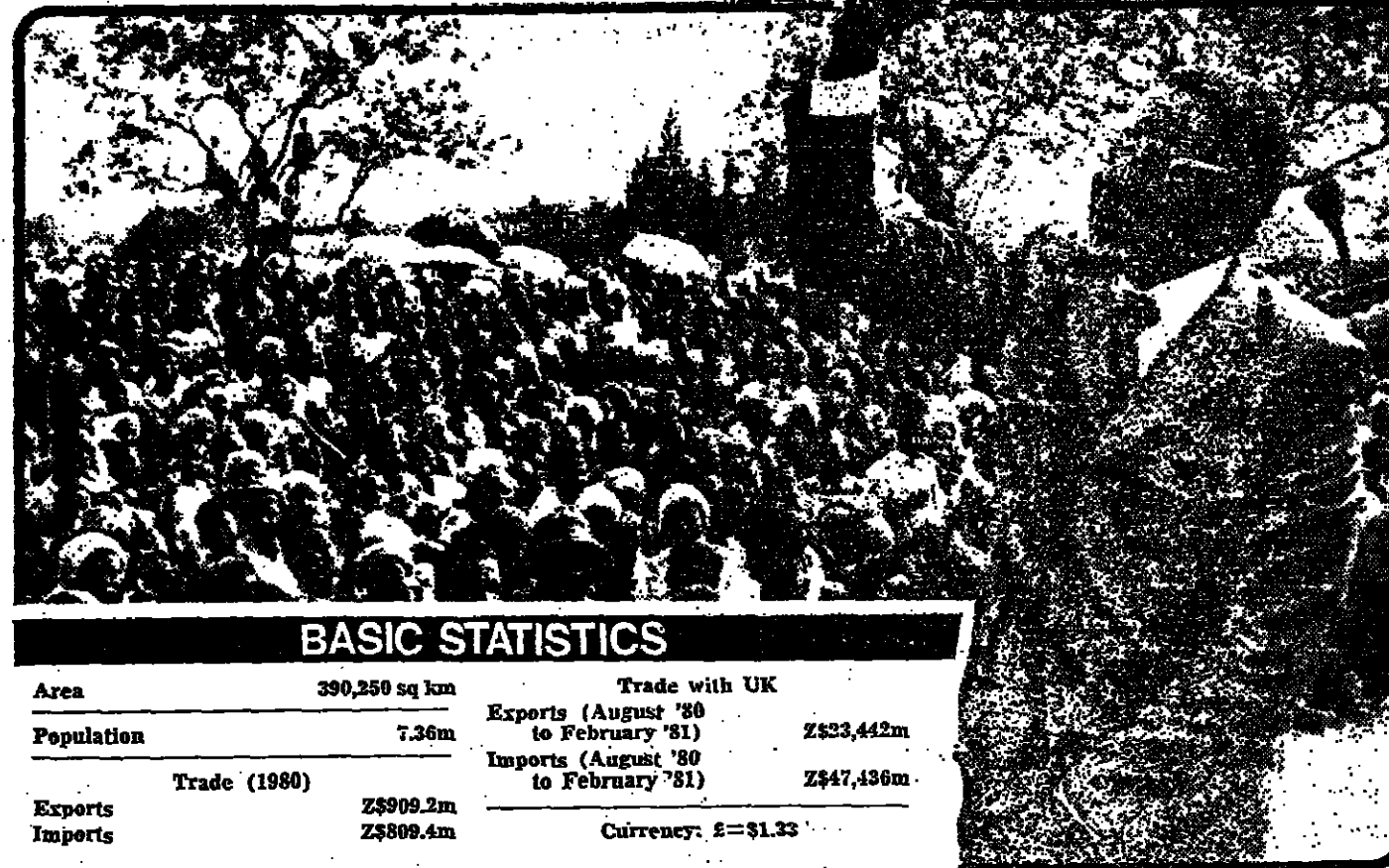
To be fair, no one in Government denies that this is the central problem of the next few years. There is much more disagreement about the future of the Zanu-PF.

Mr Mugabe has recently taken to talking in public about the desirability of a one-party state. This is at first sight surprising, because the right of political association is clearly "entrenched" in the Lancaster House constitution: it needs a unanimous vote of the 100 MPs

in the Assembly to change the constitution in areas such as this and it is impossible to imagine agreement being given in the near future by the 20 MPs on the "White" electoral role—all held by the Republican Front, formerly the Rhodesian Front of Mr Ian Smith and still led by him.

But this talk of one-party states, which clearly owes much to Black African convention, is alarming not only to the Whites but also to the Black voters represented by Mr Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front (in other words, Zapu). It holds 20 of the 80 common roll seats.

Mr Nkomo has fallen on difficult times. He has made a valuable contribution to national harmony and reconciliation since Independence (his role was vital in defusing the military crisis in February), but he is now humiliated by being given nothing to do as minister without portfolio and he is at last beginning to challenge Mr Mugabe head-on. For instance, he is in process of developing a public indictment of the Government's land policies—where he may be on delicate ground because he and his party have been buying large acreages, he has spoken out against the idea of a Zanu one-party state, and he has particularly attacked the establishment of an army Fifth Brigade which is to be trained by a party of 100 North Koreans who arrived in Zimbabwe last month. Mr Nkomo's point is that the Fifth Brigade is to be drawn largely from the Zanu forces (formerly Zanu-PF) and is apparently earmarked for



BASIC STATISTICS

Area	390,250 sq km	Trade with UK	
Population	7.26m	Exports (August '80 to February '81)	Z\$23,442m
		Imports (August '80 to February '81)	Z\$47,436m
Exports	Trade (1980)	Z\$909.2m	
Imports		Z\$809.4m	
		Currency: £=\$1.33	

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe

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ADVERTISEMENT

Zimbabwe is now firmly set on the road to progress and prosperity—due to the diligence with which the Government has implemented its various programmes and also to the generosity of those countries which have offered material and moral aid.

The cornerstone around which this success story is being weaved is the three 'Rs' propounded by the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe—reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation.

Zimbabwe's reconstruction plans have three major objectives: to re-build the destruction caused by the war; to provide adequate accommodation for the increasing population and to cater for the leisure time and work requirements (nationally and internationally) of a developing country.

A Z\$942 million five-year Government plan to overcome the housing shortage has been drawn up—an urgent necessity as the national backlog has been assessed at 60 000 units. Also about 100 000 existing houses throughout the country require electrification at an estimated cost of \$30 million over the five year period. The programme is ambitious but the careful planning which has gone into it is ensuring success. For instance, the plan involves the construction of 187 000 houses at a cost of \$771.5 million and in addition to this, the Government intends to provide funds for home owners who wish to extend the low cost 'core' houses. These are houses onto which can be added extra rooms and facilities as a unit.

However all the development will not be in the domestic sphere. As a booming tourist and conference centre, Zimbabwe needs extra facilities to accommodate the influx of visitors. To this end, the Government is to participate in two major hotel and conference centre schemes in Salisbury. One of the schemes is to be for a 700 bedroom, five-star hotel plus conference centre to seat 5 000 people—as well as ancillary services.

On the rehabilitation side the tasks are being dealt with just as enthusiastically—the task of resettling and rehabilitating a displaced population and reconstructing a war-torn economy. As part of the post-war recovery programme, refugees within the country have been returned to their homes from 29 of the so-called "protected villages" and various squatter camps. One of the more rewarding aspects of the programme was the return of 17 000 refugee children from Mozambique and Zambia to holding camps within this country and thence to their families.

The Government has been tackling the mammoth task of rebuilding the country with energy and enthusiasm, but with the advent of independence it was realised that assistance from the international com-

munity would be needed to get the programme off the ground. To this end, ZIMCORD, (Zimbabwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development) was convened in March 1981. Essentially there were five areas in which the international community was urged to aid Zimbabwe:

- i) Land settlement and rural development;
- ii) Repair and reconstruction of war damage;
- iii) Resettlement of war refugees and war displaced people;
- iv) Training and rehabilitation of former combatants;
- v) Technical co-operation.

During the Conference more than 70 delegations comprising 267 members deliberated on these points. It was hoped by the Government that a figure of \$1.2 billion would eventually be reached—however, once all aid—pre and post Conference—was tallied, the figure realised was a mammoth \$1.28 billion.

Much of the driving force behind Zimbabwe's three 'R' concept is amply summed up in a policy statement made by the Minister of Economic Planning and Development, Dr Bernard Chidzero: "Government is determined to forge ahead with the task of building a progressive, non-racial and egalitarian society which draws on the energies and abilities of all its peoples, without regard for their race, colour or creed." This is exemplified by some of the statistics arising out of the programme:

- a) The Government has settled most of the war refugees already and to them and other refugees has provided food, shelter, land and a basic means of sustenance for the initial year of independence;
- b) The Government is planning a programme aimed at the acquisition of two million hectares of commercial farming land over a three year period for dryland resettlement;
- c) Low-interest, medium and short term credit schemes are being planned;
- d) Thousands of boreholes—essential in many areas of the country—have been brought back to use;
- e) Already, 20 villages in the communal lands have had pumping plants installed to supply reticulated water;
- f) A nationwide programme to rehabilitate former combatants who wish to return to civilian life has been launched. Each soldier wanting and allowed to demobilise will be paid a wage by the Government equating with the standard of living he was used to while in the National Army. This will be paid over two years while he or she is becoming established. The scheme also includes educational and vocational training.

The last of the three 'Rs'—reconciliation—has few statistics to present. Reconciliation is a state of mind rather than of fact. But from the successful integration of the armed forces to the relaxed social atmosphere throughout Zimbabwe, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the adoration by Mr Mugabe to work together to make a success of the fledgling state has had a marked effect on all sections of the community. One of the more nebulous industries in Zimbabwe is that of tourism—also, to some, one of low priority. Bearing in mind the attention which has to be paid to the large proportion of non-tourist orientated Zimbabweans, this industry might well seem a strange bedfellow for the mundanities of tilling the soil or putting an extra bedroom on a dwelling. But this is not so. The foreign earnings from this industry are considerable and are an integral part of national economics. Tourism's recovery from wartime stagnation has been remarkable. In 1980, income amounted to \$23 million. The target for this year is \$45 million and, by 1986 it is anticipated that one million tourists will bring in \$60 million. Confidence in both the country and the industry is evidenced by the decision of an hotel group to invest \$7.5 million in renovation and expansion programmes.

From the nebulous to the ultra-pragmatic—mining. Endowed with a large variety of minerals, Zimbabwe has proven an irresistible magnet for world investment.

Mining is on the up-and-up. During 1980, more than 5 000 ordinary prospecting licences were issued compared with slightly more than 1 000 in 1979. Since independence, 44 exclusive prospecting orders have been granted compared with 22 in 1979 and 6 in 1978. These exploration and prospecting activities will expand the country's mineral information base and it is hoped that they will result in the discovery of strategic mineral deposits such as uranium.

As many countries have found, a viable environment for investment in mining exists in Zimbabwe. In contrast to many other countries, the acquisition of prospecting and mining rights under existing mining laws are straightforward and are, in themselves, an inducement to outside investors who wish to examine and exploit the country's mineral wealth.

But industry needs power. And the high increase in the demand for it will be provided by two sources. Electrical power will be catered for by the construction of a \$900 million thermal power station at Wankie; the fuel requirements by the expansion of ethanol production. In the longer term, Zimbabwe's high sunshine ratio could lead to the viable harnessing of solar energy. The Electricity Supply Commission's new coal-fired power station, scheduled to come into operation in 1983, is vital in ensuring that the country is self sufficient.

On the fuel aspect, the first ethanol plant in the country, costing \$4 million, was opened in September last year by the Prime Minister. Initial scepticism quickly evaporated as motorists found no complaint with the fuel blend of petroleum and ethanol. Interest in a second plant was expressed by a British company, Dashwood Finance Company Ltd., in June this year. The entire project is to cost US\$1 500 million to be completed over a five-year period. The first stage, costing US\$300 would be the biggest project by a single private company since Zimbabwe gained independence.

Transport too, has had a boom. Air Zimbabwe, the national airline, has had its facilities increased by a further three Boeing 707's and links have been opened with London, Frankfurt and Nairobi. Other connections are in the pipeline, including a third European centre.

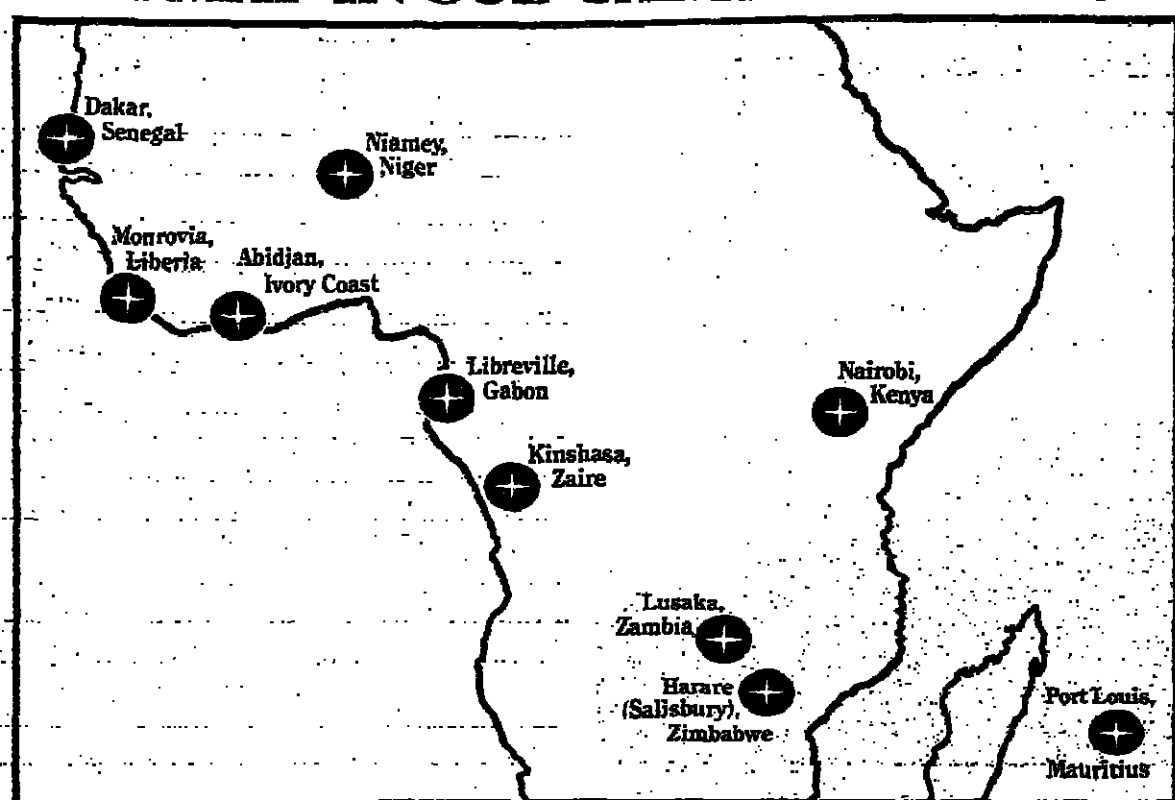
But the internal structure of the system of transport is just as important. The National Railways of Zimbabwe are a vital link; not only with neighbouring countries but within the nation. A milestone in the scheme to improve efficiency and to cater for anticipated requirements was reached in September of this year when work was begun on construction for electrification of the Salisbury-Gwelo line. It marked the culmination of two decades of effort and planning. The contract involves 475, single-track kilometres to be electrified. The contract was awarded to a British firm.

The NRZ's current capital budget and development programme, over the next six years, envisages expenditure of about Z\$332.5 million of which Z\$216.7 million is to cover stages one and two of the main line electrification programme. This includes the cost of locomotives.

The picture is incomplete. There are areas of endeavour in the nation's re-building programme which have not been explored. But the general picture emerges. That of a nation which has the potential and the wherewithal—both materially and within the population to work together, to produce the environment for effort, individual and collective; national and international.

The ground in Zimbabwe is fallow. All it needs is the tilling, sowing and reaping to prove it is the fastest growing and most progressive country on the continent.

CITIBANK IS ALL OVER THE MAP IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.



Now there's a brand new Citi in Zimbabwe.

Citibank, N.A., is a global financial institution. It includes a unique regional network with a solid commitment to Africa.

That new "Citi in Zimbabwe" is our latest location. It's in Harare (Salisbury), the twelfth link in Citibank's sub-Saharan network that spans the continent from Senegal to Kenya, Niger to Zambia, and points in between. Twelve offices in ten countries, to provide on-the-spot financial services.

In Harare (Salisbury), Citibank is ready to play an active role in an economy on the move. Our Zimbabwe representative, Joseph E. Pegues, V.P., can assist

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Connections sour as Mugabe seeks best of both worlds

IT IS NOT so many years since the road running north from Beit Bridge was lined with signs reading "Dankie Suid Afrika" — the grateful Rhodesian response to South Africa was its invaluable help in frustrating the international sanctions campaign. Then came the years when the same road was dangerous dash under military convoy, through the guerrilla-occupied Lowveld. Today Beit Bridge is the front line between Black and White-ruled Africa, and Zimbabwe's foreign policy is dominated by its relationship with the Republic.

South Africa has deteriorated rapidly in the past three months. The problem is, on the one hand, that the South African Government seems to have convinced itself that Mr Mugabe and his Government are a bad thing and, on the other, that the Zimbabweans are trying to have the best of two worlds, verbal abuse and practical co-existence.

Thus, in June, Mr Mugabe can say that "Our view is that we should restrict our hostilities to what is political. We hope that South Africa will also recognise that we have left an area where relations can be harmonious — that is, the economic and trade areas." He therefore feels able to make speeches about "the enemy down south" while the Government is engaged in acting precisely as enemies act — for instance, the 17 year old preferential trade agreement has been annulled from next year, to the potential detriment of Zimbabwe's industries, especially textiles, clothing, radio assembly, footwear and furniture; the residence permits of Zimbabweans working in the Republic are not to be renewed (affecting 20,000 people, excluding the larger number of illegal workers); locomotives on loan to Zimbabwe have been withdrawn (to the serious inconvenience of the country's transport system); and visas are now required by nationals of both countries (to the potential harm of the Zimbabwean tourist industry). In all these cases, ministers accuse each other's government of responsibility for the breakdown.

One difficulty is that the Zimbabwean Government has resolved to have no "political or diplomatic" contact with Pretoria, merely trade or economic. In consequence, the Zimbabweans will not send a minister to South Africa even to sort out urgent problems for fear that they would look like eating humble pie. This sort of deadlock can only get worse, and the South Africans evidently have the whip hand at present.

The Zimbabweans are not surprised by the problems. In the words of the deputy foreign minister, Mr Simbarashe Mumbengegwi, "We were faced with a situation where Zimbabwe was independent from April 1980 and yet in fact was the fifth province of South Africa — a country whose aspirations and

weans are aware that the Mozambique Resistance Movement (MRM) is gaining ground in neighbouring Mozambique. This movement might well be in a position to threaten the vital oil pipeline from Beira to Unai that is to be reopened before the end of this year and is planned to carry all Zimbabwe's oil imports (which presently pass through South Africa — hence accusations of blame for the shortage of diesel and petrol).

Zimbabwe's potential dependence on the pipeline gives a disproportionate importance to the security situation in Mozambique. Mr Mugabe may yet send his (large and bored) army into Mozambique, at the Pretoria Government's invitation, to help defend the pumping stations. The contrary view is that the MRM, despite its South African friends, would not risk antagonising Black Africa by being seen to damage Mr Mugabe's Government and thus to reinforce its dependence on the South African rail and road system.

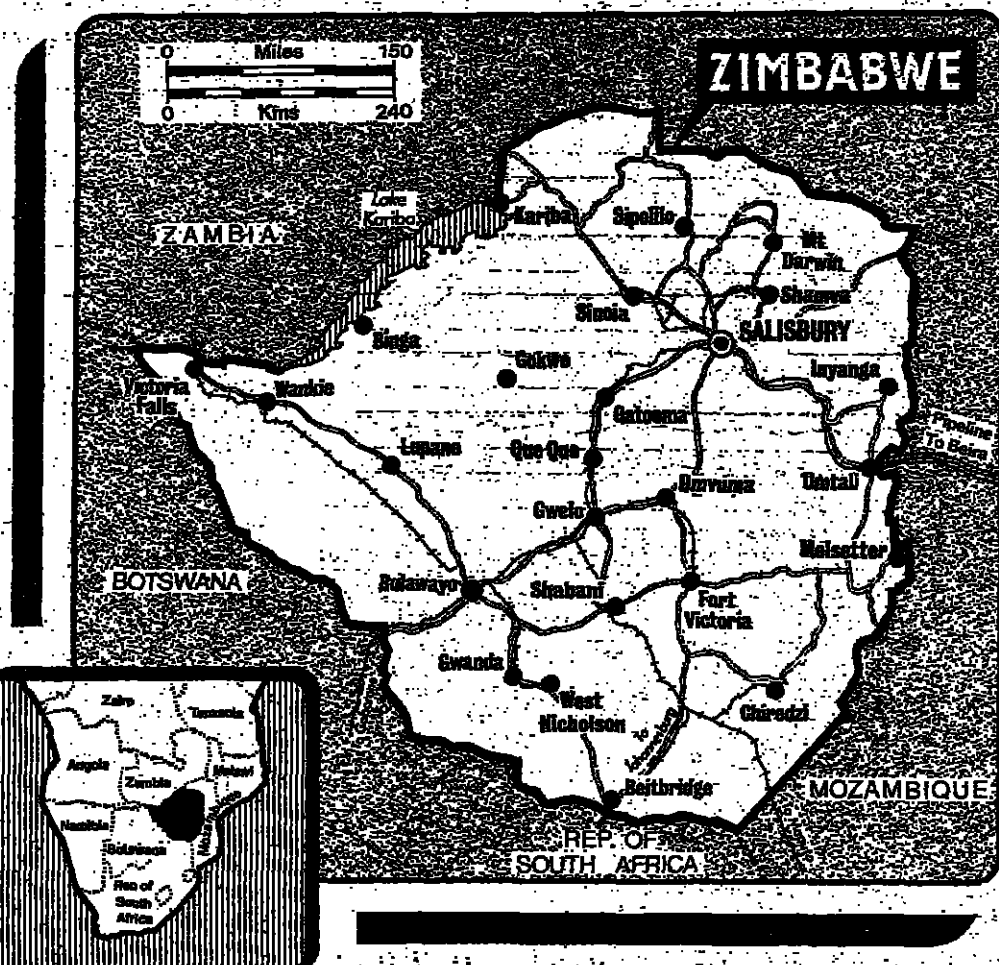
The question persists: is South Africa destabilising Zimbabwe, or might it wish to do so? The answer may be that the White Man speaks not so much with forked tongue as with different tongues, and that there are different opinions among Pretoria's policy-makers. Thus, Mr Ray Kallen, deputy director-general of the department of foreign affairs, told a conference earlier this month, "We are primarily concerned with stability in this part of the world. It is not our intention to see a deterioration of the wish to see these states succeed."

(At that very moment, South African troops were still inside Angola.) The Zimbabweans remain unconvinced, and South Africa's actions in recent weeks are certainly not seen as benevolent and helpful. An important part of Salisbury's response has been its commitment to the SADC — the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference — regional grouping, conceived in 1976, brings together nine Black states — Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Tanzania — in an attempt to foster regional self-reliance amongst

60m people, and also to reduce the region's dependence on South Africa. The independence of Zimbabwe was vital, since the Zimbabwean economy is central to the grouping's prospects. The South Africans have not concealed their irritation that SADC has dealt a major blow to the future of their own "constellation of states" which was intended to help legitimise their Bantustan tribal homelands.

SADC, however, deserves to be seen as far more than an anti-South African operation. Its progress has been steady and modest rather than dramatic. The emphasis has been on transport and communications between members (which are not only inadequate to the needs of the region but are also designed historically to foster South Africa's regional dominance). But the organisation is realistic: it accepts the existing dependence on South Africa, and Zimbabwe's inability to sever links with the south in any dramatic way is better understood by SADC than by the UN or the Organisation of African Unity.

The Zimbabwe role vis-à-vis Namibia is strictly in line with its new membership of the group of "frontline states". The delicate questions relate rather to the attitude to the South African liberation movement, such as the ANC. The Government's position has so far been straightforward: it admits its inability to invite the republicans that South Africa has made clear would follow if it allowed its territory to be used for ANC bases. There has been an unofficial "office" in Salisbury for some time, and an ANC leader was recently assassinated. Everyone in Salisbury assumes that the South Africans were responsible. Meanwhile, Zimbabwe has been slow to build up its diplomatic representation overseas. In contrast with the rush of foreign governments to open embassies in Salisbury, there are 11 Zimbabwean missions abroad — and curiously, in view of the suggestion in some quarters that Zimbabwe is "pro-Communist", Zimbabwe has no embassy yet in Moscow, Peking or Pyongyang.



Essential issues

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

is well on the way to becoming a mere expatriate whose role is no longer that of the committed citizen but that of the salaried transient.

The January-May 1981 emigration figures show a net loss of 9,000 which is likely to be an underestimate of the true departures. Some experts believe that over the next few years the White population will decline from the Independence level of 220,000 to 120-150,000. None of which is to deny that Black-White relations are still far better than in most African countries and show no sign of serious deterioration.

Part of the Whites' concern for the future stems from the sense that the decision-making process is under extreme pressure. Thus, there is confusion about the extent to which the apparatus of the ruling Zanu-PF is producing effective policy, and its relationship with the Cabinet. Mr Mugabe has been touring the country this month, presumably as part of an overhaul of the party machine.

But the party, built up in order to fight a civil war, has experienced difficulty in developing an effective peacetime structure and role. The policy-making relationship between the Central Committee of the party and the national Cabinet remains obscure; the party evidently manages to contain a range of opinion, from "Marxist" to traditional nationalist, and also brings together "external" and "internal" wings — those who led the war from outside (and were thereby often radicalised) and those who stayed (and often suffered) at home.

The recent dismissal of the populist Mr Edgar Tekere as secretary-general and his effective replacement by the Prime Minister will presumably bring the party closer to government in due course. Certainly there seems to be an element of disarray in Zanu-PF policy-making which directly affects basic issues, such as the country's attitude towards foreign investment and the extent of its commitment to a mixed economy.

Behind all this lies the ethnic division between the Shona majority, by and large in Zanu, and the Ndebele minority, still represented overwhelmingly by Mr Robert Mugabe. Meanwhile the UANC of the unemployed ex-premier, Bishop Muzorewa, sinks rapidly into oblivion. In parallel, there is also concern about the strain on the administrative capacities available to the country. The exodus of so many Whites and the forced promotion of so

many Blacks have inevitably affected the bureaucratic resources of a country which prided itself on the quality of its administration. The army administration is also showing signs of strain where the upkeep of a peacetime standing force of 60,000-plus has never before been undertaken by either the "Rhodesian" or the guerrilla armies.

This same factor is only partly to blame for the most immediate problem: the serious inability of the transport system to cope with record agricultural exports. This bottleneck (which is discussed elsewhere) is a culmination of three factors: the shortage of skilled artisans (the Government is trying to import Indians, Pakistanis and British), the wearing down of the rolling stock after 15 years of sanctions, and the unhelpful attitude of the South Africans, who have insisted on withdrawing valuable locomotives. The consequence: of a record 1.5m tonnes of maize available for export, less than one-third can be moved by next March.

South Africa is bound to be the main preoccupation of Mr Mugabe's Government. The antipathy is mutual. The South Africans (unlike the Western governments, who rapidly adjusted to a Zanu victory which had come as a surprise to them) continue to be appalled at the emergence of Mr Mugabe on their borders (as a combined Marxist and Roman Catholic, he is seen by the Calvinist Afrikaners as the anti Christ).

Yet Mr Mugabe, realistic in his public admission, that Zimbabwe cannot afford a direct confrontation with the Republic, either in supporting international sanctions or in offering bases for African National Congress guerrillas, does not seem to appreciate that constant verbal abuse from Salisbury (the Voice of Zimbabwe is instructed to insert the adjective "racist" before references to South Africa in its news bulletins) is a provocation which encourages South Africa's instinctive application of measures damaging to Zimbabwe.

Our victory in Zimbabwe can only have full meaning and significance if Namibia and South Africa are seen. declares Mr Mugabe. Fair enough — but this sort of public attitude makes it easier for Pretoria to introduce its recent range of measures, from withholding locomotives to annulling the preferential trade agreement, from cancelling the contracts of Zimbabwe workers to requiring tourist visas. The Zimbabweans are convinced that South Africa is determined to "destabilise" their country. The South Africans protest their innocence but do not conceal their distaste for Mr Mugabe and for his Government.

The essence of this relationship between neighbours is whether or not South Africa tolerates a successful, prosperous and unqualified Zimbabwe on its borders. It is too soon to see

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Boom slows as constraints start to bite

AFTER A quite remarkable post-independence boom, last year when real Gross National Product increased 14 per cent, the Zimbabwe economy is slowing in the second half of 1981 as the foreign exchange, transport and skilled labour constraints start to bite. Recently-published figures estimate GNP growth (at current prices) in 1980 at more than 23 per cent with inflation of 8.2 per cent on the GNP deflator.

It was the first time since 1974 that there had been any positive real growth in the economy and by the end of last year virtually all the substantial real income loss (amounting to some 12.5 per cent) incurred during the last five years of sanctions and war had been recouped with the result that GNP at constant 1985 prices was almost back to its peak 1974 levels.

Of course, given the 3.5 per cent a year population growth

Despite this, production was up 32 per cent in value, though in volume terms production was at a seven-year low and more than 70 per cent of the industry's growth came from higher gold and silver prices.

This year, the current prices growth rate of the economy is unlikely to be materially different from last year's 23 per cent and could well be a shade higher. However, the inflation rate is going to be at least double last year's 8 per cent with the result that the real growth rate will be halved to around 7 per cent.

The main thrust is coming from agriculture, supported by the continued boom in consumer spending and rapidly-increasing government expenditure. Following the combination of a superb rainy season in 1980-81 and the government decision a year ago to raise the maize price by one-third to Z\$120 a tonne, total maize production is expected to increase 170 per cent in value while buoyant tobacco prices will ensure a 30 per cent increase in the value of the cured leaf sale. Agriculture's growth rate should comfortably exceed last year's 35 per cent.

Manufacturing production, which rose a further 13 per cent in the first five months of 1981, can be expected to slow progressively in the latter part of the year. Industrialists say that output is being hit by delayed deliveries, inadequate supplies of raw materials, a shortage of physical capacity and, above all, the scarcity of skilled labour. In addition, the handsome increases in import quotas last year and early in 1981 will not be repeated over the next 12 months and last week, Finance Minister Enos Nkala announced a 10 per cent cutback in import allocations to industry as a result of the deterioration in the country's external payments position.

Manufacturing capacity is closely linked to foreign exchange allocations both in respect of imported inputs and new investment in physical capacity. The external payments position has tightened significantly since independence, despite the lifting of sanctions and access to international capital markets. The



Good rains and raised producer prices resulted in a bumper maize crop, but transport bottlenecks mean that 1m tonnes must be stockpiled

year gold sales totalled only Z\$13m as against Z\$70m in the comparable period last year.

A second reason is the congestion on the railways, while the high level of domestic demand has undoubtedly diverted production of consumer goods away from export markets. Depressed international commodity markets, especially for minerals, are also having a material impact on export performance this year.

On the positive side, tobacco exports this year are likely to exceed Z\$160m (Z\$118m last year) while maize earnings will rise from a mere Z\$7.4m to at least Z\$45m.

But these are the only two of the country's major exports (maize was barely exported at all last year following the bad farming season) likely to show any significant growth. Imports are currently running at Z\$75m a month—up 12 per cent on 1980—while exports are averaging Z\$70m monthly, which is 14 per cent below last year.

Trade figures highlight the continuing emphasis on traditional links—namely those with South Africa, the contiguous African states, the EEC, the U.S. and Japan.

centrally planned economies. China bought nearly 4 per cent of Zimbabwe's exports in the nine-month period but this refers very largely to a major purchase of tobacco late last year following the failure of the Chinese crop. Russia was in the market last year for more than Z\$6m worth of sugar but well over 70 per cent of Zimbabwe's trade is with the OECD countries and neighbouring states. That said, there is concern in some business quarters that government might move to direct trade towards friendly states.

The official view is that after a difficult year in 1981, exports should pick up with the OECD economy next year, but clearly the balance of payments will continue to constrain growth and add to inflationary pressures. Excessive domestic demand bids up prices against a background of production constraints. The balance of payments has been used in the past year to ease inflationary pressures—by increasing imports and by running down the reserves and thereby slowing the growth rate of the money supply.

Zimbabwe's officially held foreign reserves tumbled from independence peak of Z\$312m last October to Z\$147m at the end of August, which is less than two months' imports cover. The way ahead, according to some businessmen and diplomats is to borrow heavily in international markets to ease the external payments bottleneck.

The successful Zimbabwe Conference in March this year raised a total of Z\$1.3bn in aid funds to be used over the next three to four years, but these funds are largely earmarked for rural development and other public sector programmes with the result that the foreign exchange inflow available for the private sector is unlikely to be anything like large enough to meet essential demands, not least for the replacement of ageing and obsolete capital equipment in all sectors of the economy.

Recently, Finance Minister Enos Nkala sounded a warning to those who believe that Zimbabwe can borrow itself out of its foreign payments straight-jacket. Although he gave no figures, he warned that given the "gloomy" world economic outlook, Zimbabwe should not, in his view, allow its debt-to-revenue ratio to exceed 12.5 per cent. Foreign debt over the next few years, and particularly the 1984 to 1986 period, already represented "certain problems" and the country was in respect of these years in particular "already approaching the point where new debt cannot be contracted." Accordingly, all future external borrowings must have a grace period of at least five years (to beyond 1988), if not longer.

The most recent published figures show Zimbabwe's official external debt at Z\$413m—up only Z\$40m since independence. No debt-service ratio figures are published, but the World Bank estimated the ratio at 7 per cent at the end of 1979, since when it is believed to have risen to around 12 per cent, chiefly as a result of commitments for the railways, new aircraft for Air Zimbabwe and Wankle thermal power station. These commitments are particularly heavy over the 1981-86 period, which suggests that foreign borrowing is not going to provide sufficient foreign exchange to materially loosen the external payments constraint in the first half of the 1980s.

On the policy front, the publication early this year of the economic policy white paper "Growth With Equity" has—possibly inevitably—attracted criticism from the business sector that there is increasingly undue emphasis on equity and not sufficient emphasis on growth. Indeed, World Bank advisers have stressed the dangers of pursuing a labour policy focusing on the distribution of income rather than employment effects of wage policy.

The disappointing 2.5 per cent employment growth last year, which accompanied the introduction of increased wage minima, underlines the need for proceeding cautiously. The Riddell Commission of Inquiry into Income, Prices and Conditions of Service, recently recommended that wage minima be phased upwards over a period of three years to bring minimum wages by mid-1984 to 80 per cent of the Poverty Datum Line for each major sector. The report is still being

considered by government. Private sector reaction has been relatively favourable though there is concern at the potentially-inflationary implications of such a strategy.

Dilemma

It has been calculated that given 15 per cent inflation—which may be on the low side—such a wage policy would imply industrial wage minima being raised by 30 per cent a year over the next three years while farm wages would have to rise at some 60 per cent a year. In a country with population growing at 3.5 per cent a year and upwards of 100,000 job-seekers coming into the market each year, policies designed to foster rapid employment growth, or to keep people on the land by making more land available, are vital. The Mugabe Government faces a very difficult policy dilemma here.

On another front—budgetary policy—the signs are very encouraging. The July 1981 budget was both fiscally responsible and politically courageous. Minister Nkala, looked into a position of rapid expenditure growth (government spending will rise more than 37 per cent this year) budgeted to increase revenue from taxes by 42 per cent a year—at the least—in the early 1980s and 20 per cent budget deficit which in 1981 will constitute nearly 11 per cent of GDP as against 9 per cent last year. This is too high for comfort and the Government is committed to reducing this ratio.

Senator Nkala's promise substantially to reduce—if not

phase out altogether—subsidies which this year absorb 8 per cent of total spending was courageous given the fact that lower subsidies must mean higher food prices next year, if not sooner.

The year-on-year inflation rate was brought down—largely by deliberate government policies in the first six months of the Mugabe administration. Lower sales taxation, free primary education, free health facilities for low income groups—all helped to slow inflation from 13.7 per cent in late 1979 to 6.6 per cent in August last year. But by mid-1981 the inflation rate had more than doubled to 15.3 per cent and, once the higher consumption taxes imposed in the budget start to show in the price figures, the inflation rate will move close to 20 per cent (on a year-to-year basis).

Next year, inflationary pressures must remain strong and the Government is having to adopt an increasingly tougher stance (increased taxes, credit restraint and higher interest rates) to try to bring inflation to heel and bolster the external payments position.

The most optimistic forecasts suggest that Zimbabwe will have to live with inflation of 15 per cent a year—at the least—in the early 1980s and 20 per cent could turn out to be a more realistic figure for 1982-83.

Economic achievements in the first 18 months of independence have been impressive indeed, but as impact of certain "one-off" factors—such as the major improvement in the terms of trade following the lifting of

DIRECTION OF TRADE		
August-December 1980 and January-April 1981		
Country/per cent share	Exports	Imports
South Africa	20.5	28
UK	9.5	9
West Germany	10.4	6.6
U.S.	3.5	8
Other EEC (Italy, France, Netherlands, Belgium)	13.3	7
Japan	2.6	5.5
Neighbouring States (Botswana, Zambia, Zaire, Mozambique, Malawi)	9	6.4

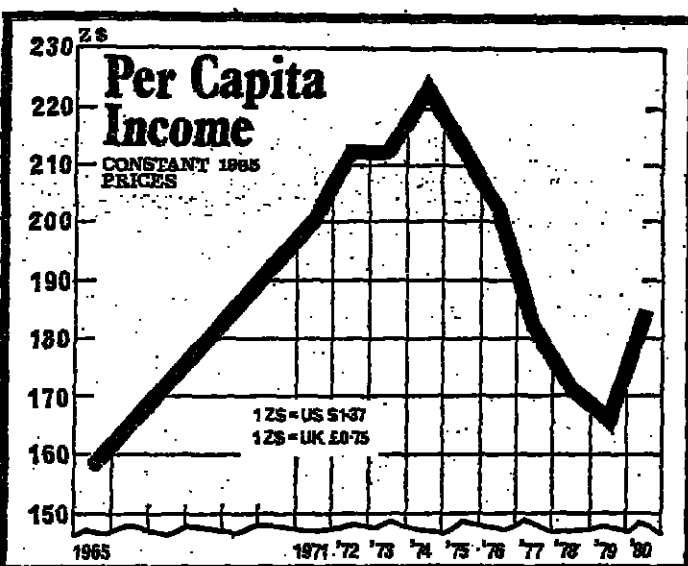
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS		
Z\$bn		
	1980	1979
Exports of merchandise	Z\$8m	Z\$8m
Gold sales	115	87
Service receipts	83	45
Investment income	75	42
Merchandise imports	-839	-595
Service payments	-215	-147
Investment income payments	-86	-68
Net transfers	-89	-84
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	-172	-73
Capital movements:		
Central Government	-23	+118
Other public authorities	-3	-6
Private capital	+115	+61
OVERALL BALANCE (capital and current accounts)	-81	+100

ECONOMY

TONY HAWKINS
Salisbury Correspondent

rate, real per capita income levels are well down on their 1974 peak having fallen some 25 per cent between 1974 and 1979 before rising nearly 11 per cent last year. Nonetheless, the 1980 performance was remarkable not just because the actual growth rate achieved was more than treble the 4 per cent estimate made at the time of independence in April 1980, but also because of the speed of Zimbabwe's economic resurgence after 14 years of debilitating economic sanctions and seven years of escalating guerrilla war and coming in the wake of a climatically-poor agricultural season.

The main sources of growth last year were the surge in private consumption spending (up 30 per cent), in net government expenditure (up 25 per cent), in imports (up 47 per cent) and in exports (up 27 per cent). The export performance was, in fact, a good deal less impressive than this figure suggests because, the volume of deepened, so the industry started to lose momentum.



exports actually declined some 5 per cent to the lowest level recorded since 1971, but export prices rose 32.5 per cent and it was this favourable terms of trade effect that helped finance the strong 33 per cent increase in import volumes.

Fuelled by the explosion in consumer spending on the one hand and the substantial increase in import allocations on the other, manufacturing production rose 29 per cent in value and 14.8 per cent in volume.

Agriculture's performance was the most surprising in that, a year ago, officials were forecasting a fall in farm output following the severe drought in the 1979-80 growing season and the depressed tobacco prices paid on the auction floors last year for the large crop of poor quality leaf. But, contrary to expectations, maize deliveries rose 60 per cent in volume and more than doubled in value while the value of sugar production—boosted by buoyant world market prices—increased 129 per cent. Despite the 19 per cent fall-off in cattle slaughterings, agriculture's contribution to GDP increased 30 per cent—the first material such growth since 1974.

The mining industry was swept along on the shoulders of the buoyant bullion price for much of the year but as precious metal prices waned and as the OECD recession

main reason for this is the deliberate policy of allowing imports to rise faster than exports to maintain a high rate of economic expansion.

As a result, the current account deficit doubled last year to Z\$165m from Z\$77m previously. There was a capital account surplus of some Z\$84m, entirely attributable to private sector borrowing and inflows of Z\$125m, leaving an overall deficit of some Z\$81m compared with a surplus of Z\$100m the previous year.

Tightened

Despite a further 28 per cent improvement in the terms of trade in the first four months of 1981, the payments position has tightened further with the country's officially-held foreign reserves tumbling from a post-independence peak of Z\$212m last October to Z\$147m at the end of August.

In the same four months Zimbabwe held a visible trade deficit of Z\$27m as against a surplus of Z\$98m in the comparable period last year and it seems probable that the country will have a trade deficit in 1981 compared with last year's Z\$66m surplus. One obvious reason for this is the fall in the gold price and the Zimbabwean decision to withhold gold from export markets pending an improvement in the price. In the first four months of this

South Africa is far and away the chief trading partner supplying 26 per cent of total imports (excluding oil) and buying 20.5 per cent of exports (excluding gold). Britain is in second place with 9 per cent of imports and 9.5 per cent of Zimbabwe's exports followed by West Germany with 8.5 per cent of imports and 10.4 per cent of exports.

The significance of regional trade is evident in the 9 per cent share of Zimbabwe's exports sold to Zaire, Zambia, Malawi and Botswana and the 6.4 per cent of imports coming from those countries (and Mozambique)—the most important single such import being electricity from Zambia.

The trade figures for South Africa exclude diesel and other fuels of unknown origin sold to Zimbabwe and to that extent understate the importance of trade and transport links with the south. In the medium term, these links will diminish in importance. Pretoria itself has already taken the initiative in terminating the 1984 trade agreement between the two countries with effect from next year. This is bound to have a very adverse impact on exports of furniture, clothing, textiles, footwear and radios.

Given the history of the liberation movement, it is hardly surprising that there should be pressure for an increase in trade with non-aligned countries, and the

PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTIONS TO GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND EXPENDITURE 1980	
Agriculture	13%
Mining	8.5%
Manufacturing	26%
Distribution/hotels	12.7%
Public Administration	10.5%
Transport and communications	7.3%
Finance/insurance	4.5%
Construction	3.1%
Expenditure	
Consumption	63%
Government Spending	22%
Investment	12%



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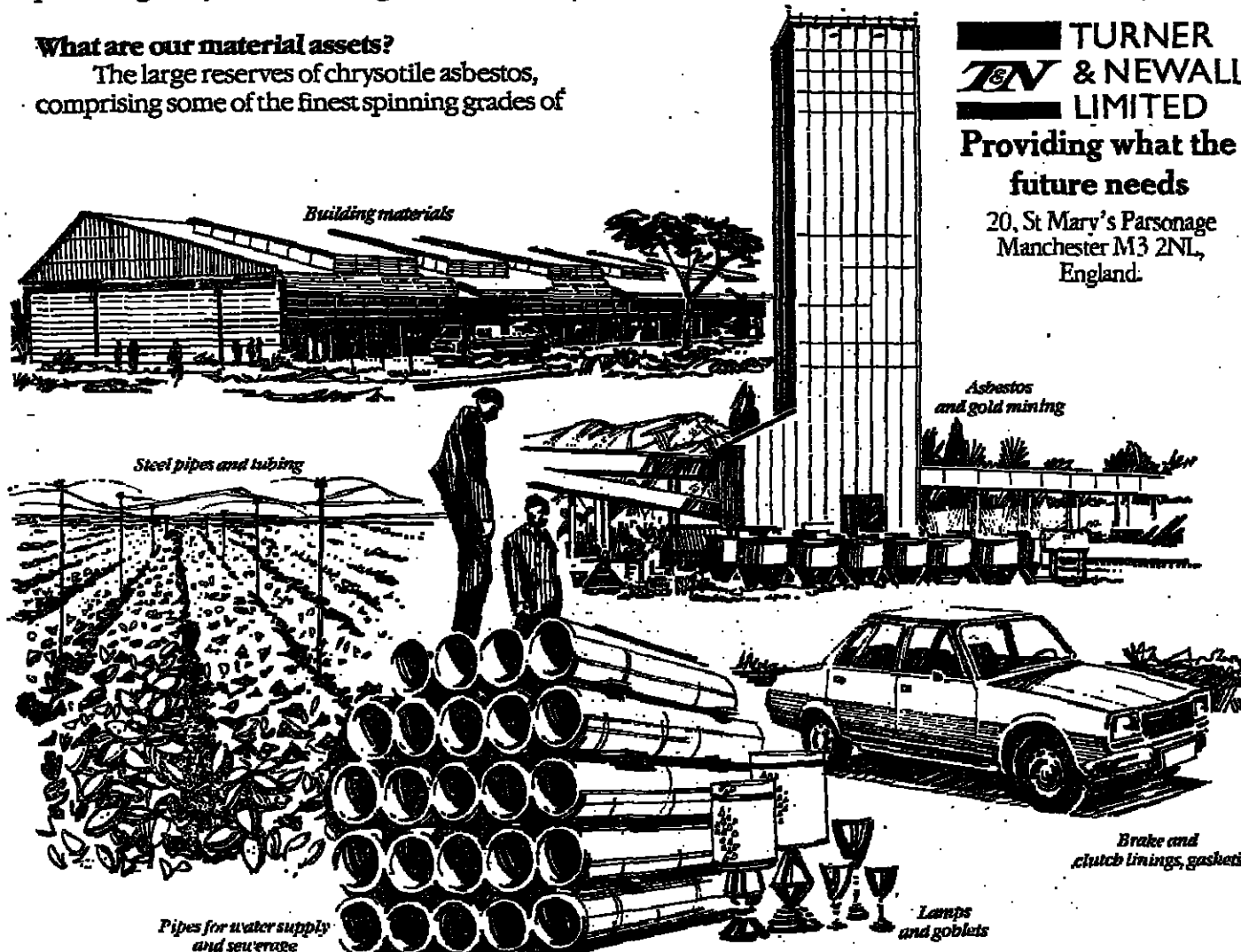
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What is our philosophy?

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Squatter families take law into their own hands

"PAMBERI NE GOMBO," declare the 1,000 squatters on Kasimyre Farm near Karoi in Zimbabwe's agricultural heartland. "Forward with claiming new land!"

It's a deliberate echo of the slogan which was heard throughout the seven year war of independence, rallying the supporters of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe: "Pamberi ne Zanu." Today, some 50,000 squatters have taken the law into their own hands and set up homes on commercial farmland, mainly along the eastern border, to a lesser extent in Victoria province and few in Mashonaland.

The war was about land. It is and always has been the most fundamental issue in Zimbabwe's politics, one which stretches back to the expropriation of land by the white settlers towards the end of the last century.

The squatters' slogan highlights a continuing battle — certainly the most serious challenge faced by the new Government. For there is a growing impatience — acknowledged by senior government officials — at the pace of a British-supported resettlement programme designed to ease pressure on overpopulated and overgrazed former Tribal Trust Lands (TTLs).

There is a bright side to post-independence developments in the TTLs, which bore the brunt of the war. Schools, clinics, dip tanks, grinding mills and stores have reopened; peasant crop production has soared; refugees have returned from Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana and rural development is a priority.

But government has hardly begun to grapple with the deeply entrenched problem of land use. The occupation by whites of some of the country's best agricultural areas was to be formalised in the 1930s by the Land Apportionment Act, later known as the Land Tenure Act and repealed in 1979. The de facto racial division of land, fast being eroded in the urban areas, remains the characteristic of the countryside.

The 14.8m hectares of commercial farmland is still dominated by nearly 5,000 white farmers. The 1.5m hectares of former African Purchase Land, set aside in 1930 for freehold tenure by blacks, now falls within the category of commercial farmland. And the 18.3m hectares of TTLs — now known as communal land — is occupied by some 780,000 families — 10.4 per cent of Zimbabwe's 7.5m people.

This TTL land — about 42 per cent of the country — is, in many areas, steadily deteriorating. A paper by Mr J. R. Whitlow of the Geography Department at the University of Zimbabwe, concludes that population pressure is "great" to "desperate" in nearly 40 per

cent of the TTLs. "Land degradation is widespread in many of these tribal areas and in some cases has reached such advanced stages that regeneration processes will take several decades to restore the vegetation and soil cover," he warns.

How many families should this land carry? There can be no precise answer. Zimco funds (as discussed elsewhere in this survey) are largely earmarked for rural development and could well raise the carrying capacity. But also to be taken into account is the fact that the population is expected to double by the end of the century.

Perhaps the most commonly accepted statistical assessment is found in the report of the Riddell Commission, which suggests that the TTLs are capable of carrying about 325,000 families.

The Commission points out that some 235,000 peasant families have their breadwinners working in the towns. Past governments were reluctant to concede urban residential and

LAND

MICHAEL HOLMAN
Central Africa Correspondent

other rights to black workers, whose low wages were insufficient to keep the whole family together in town.

The long term policy under the new administration is to improve urban working conditions and wages and bring the urban workers and their families together. Thus when assessing land demand planners assume — perhaps optimistically — that this group needs no agricultural land.

The current resettlement programme could, on best assumptions, place up to 35,000 families over the next three years. But that still leaves a further 185,000 families — around 1m people.

There is a further factor in what is clearly a worrying picture: the quality of land already brought on offer, under the resettlement programme.

The country is graded into five categories — Natural Region I through to V. Category II is most suitable for mixed farming and this category is overwhelmingly occupied by white farmers. As the Riddell Commission points, "much of the land acquired for the resettlement programme is of poor quality, for some 66 per cent of the 1.1m hectares... (so far earmarked for resettlement) falls within Natural Regions IV and V which are generally suitable only for semi-intensive and extensive livestock production."

What then is government policy? It is set out in a booklet on resettlement, outlining

the principles of the three-year programme in which British government funds of \$30m will be matched by the Zimbabwe Government.

In the first stages of the programme, some 18,000 families will be resettled on 1.1m hectares of land. The 42-page booklet carries considerable detail, including housing criteria (40 square metres, two bedrooms, worth \$24,000) and resettlement officers (150 square metres, ceilings, hot and cold water, three bedrooms, worth \$218,000).

It outlines an infrastructure of roads, dip tanks, fencing and other settlement needs. Land is purchased on a willing-seller-willing-buyer basis, and would be settled on a leasehold basis of need — thus, refugees and landless have priority.

Three resettlement models are offered:
A Intensive village settlements, with about five hectares of arable land per family, and communal grazing rights.
B Intensive settlement with communal living and co-operative farming.
C Intensive settlement, around a central core estate which will provide certain services, and to which families contribute labour. Arable land and livestock are individually owned. Grazing is communal.

So far nearly 1,200 families have been established, almost all on schemes based on model A.

Though no-one underestimates the problems involved, there are already serious questions to be raised about such an important programme.

Clearly the impact to date has been negligible in proportion to land demands. At the cost per family is huge, even making allowances for the fact that infrastructural developments will improve the lot of others in the area. For example, putting 125 families into two villages in Natural Region IV, under settlement scheme A, is \$243,520 per family.

Nor can it be certain that these families will be good farmers, since the selection process — admirable on humanitarian grounds — does not call for proven farming ability. Yet the country's agricultural extension service has a severe shortage of trained workers.

The overwhelming demand from peasants is for model A, despite the policy on which Zanu-PF came to power. "Peasant agriculture will be the basis of collectivisation... it is essential that peasant land holdings are combined to constitute viable collective units on the basis of which the State's assistance can be granted."

That is a far cry from a scheme which includes 2318,000 houses for officers and five hectares per family. Reservations about state and communal farming in the rest of Africa are well founded, but model A takes up

what would seem to be a disproportionate amount of Zimbabwe's scarce land and financial resources.

The harsh terms of tenure of a settlement plot have discouraged some who would be settlers who have relinquished their rights to TTL land. Occupancy is not freehold. It is at the Minister of Land's pleasure, and the tenancy is set out in draconian terms which must surely have been couched by a legal draughtman who had the notorious Law and Order (Maintenance) Act as his guide.

"The Minister may renew this permit and, at any time during the currency thereof, may, without notice, replace it with some other form of agreement on such terms and conditions as he may determine... may revoke this permit at any time."

shall have the right, free of charge and without compensation, to lay roads, boreholes, pipelines... on the expiry of revocation of this permit no compensation shall be payable to the holder for any improvements effected by him on the said site."

Officials have encountered complex land disputes which stand in the way of resettlement. Thus new locations have been turned down by potential settlers on the grounds that they have an historical claim to other land. Alternatively, they refuse to move because the land they are being offered is being claimed on similar grounds, by another tribe or clan.

So far, government has more land on offer than it can presently cope with. But should it wish to buy commercial land — perhaps adjacent to an overcrowded TTL — which the white owner refuses to sell, the Lancaster House constitution includes a major obstacle.

Although there is provision for compulsory acquisition, the landowner is entitled to take compensation, should — a foreign exchange drain the Government cannot afford.

There is no easy answer to the country's land problem. As in other areas, the Government is discovering that the socialist policies on which it came to office — often inadequately thought out and barely researched — are either difficult to apply or win a mixed response from constituents.

While there is broad agreement that the commercial farming sector should be protected, the pace and nature of the resettlement programme is arousing considerable debate. There is a growing danger that land will become a political football, kicked not only by politicians outside the ranks of the ruling Zanu-PF, looking for a populist issue, but by members within that party.

The squatters at Kasimyre Farm and elsewhere are a worrying sign of impatience at the pace of progress on this critical issue.

Farming boom, but problems ahead

THE WHITE farmers who so strongly supported Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence in 1965 and who suffered so much from the war and from sanctions, have benefited most from Zimbabwe's independence. The volume of commercial farm production rose less than 1 per cent between 1971 and 1979 and 1979 production was some 10 per cent below the 1976 peak. Provisional 1980 figures show a 12 per cent jump in the volume of commercial output and a handsome 34 per cent increase in the value of production, reflecting higher prices for many products, though not tobacco.

Commercial farm output last year was valued at \$588m and the peasant sector \$146m, a 43 per cent increase over the previous year's levels. Commercial agriculture, largely in the hands of some 4,800 white growers, was therefore responsible for 80 per cent of total output. In terms of marketed production, the commercial sector's share is far higher, representing more than 94 per cent of the total.

The major improvement in output in 1980 was achieved despite a continuation of the war until mid-way through the 1979-80 growing season and a severe drought. In the following season, ideal weather and a 33 per cent rise in the producer price of maize, resulted in an embarrassingly large maize crop, currently estimated at almost 3m tonnes — more than double the 1979-80 level.

The crop is an embarrassment only in the strictly physical sense against the background of a transport bottleneck which is making it impossible to export more than 300,000 tonnes this year, thereby imposing a considerable burden on the money market and on storage capacity because of the need to stockpile an estimated 1m tonnes of maize in 1981/82.

Just over 2m tonnes of the maize crop is expected to be sold to the Grain Marketing Board, with the balance being retained for own consumption by peasant growers (some 800,000 tonnes) and for use on the farms themselves.

In 1981 the value of maize sold to the marketing authority will rise to around \$240m from \$72m last year, making maize easily the most important crop. Tobacco production is estimated at \$125m (marginally higher than last year) but cotton output is expected to be slightly lower and there will be a fall in the value of sugar production as a result of lower world prices. A sharp drop in cattle slaughtering will be partially offset by higher producer prices. The net result is likely to be an

AGRICULTURE

TONY HAWKINS

increase of 35-40 per cent in the value of farm output this year, almost entirely attributable to maize.

Growth next year will slacken significantly. There is unlikely to be a second consecutive season of ideal weather, and production will be inhibited by two major input shortages. Diesel fuel has been effectively rationed to farmers in recent months at some 80 per cent of January/February levels. The position improved early in September but farmers in the main northern cropping areas were receiving less fuel than those in the south. A spokesman for the coffee growers warned recently that production was being disrupted by the diesel shortage and maize plantings will almost certainly suffer.

Farmers believe that output will be further affected by the disruption of fertiliser deliveries as a result of transport congestion. Forecasting is made even harder by the decision not to announce preplanting prices at the start of the season, but a survey of farmers' cropping intentions points to a 7 per cent increase in land under crops in commercial areas. The largest increase is in tobacco, in line with higher crop target for 1981-82. Surprisingly, there is little change in maize plantings. A switch back to tobacco

by maize growers had been expected. Cotton will be down sharply, reflecting recent disappointment with prices.

The tobacco crop target has been raised 41 per cent to 96m kg and prices are expected to remain high next year, which will encourage growth in this sector. Peasant production will be inhibited by the transport, fertiliser and fuel problems, but given an "average" season there should be some further real growth in farm output next year, albeit at a significantly slower rate than in either of the past two seasons.

The livestock sector remains under great pressure. The 510,000 cattle slaughtered last year represents a drop of almost 30 per cent from the 1973 peak. The commercially-owned beef herd, hit by disease, high levels of female slaughtering and war-time rustling, is down to 2.5m head from more than 3.5m in 1977. The number of cattle in the communal lands has fallen to 2.9m from 3.4m.

The female slaughter rate, which was up to 56 per cent 18 months ago, is now down to 42 per cent (38 per cent being regarded as an appropriate level), which suggests progress in the rebuilding of the national herd.

Aside from the fuel and fertiliser input shortages, commercial farmers are concerned at the squatter problem and the potential impact of increasing wages on agricultural employment. In addition, they complain about inadequate foreign exchange allocation for tractors, machinery and spares. Ideally, farmers say, about 20 per cent of the tractor fleet should be replaced annually, which would mean 3,400 new tractors a year. The current allocation is 600.

While the industry is not opposed to higher minimum wages, the point is made that these should be announced ahead of the farming season in September (as recommended by the Riddell Commission of Inquiry into Incomes, Prices and Conditions of Service) and also that higher wages must be linked to increased producer prices. No wage increase has been announced yet, which means that there could be a

VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION 1980/81

	Z\$m
Tobacco	97
Sugar	77
Maize	72
Cotton	70
Wheat	22
Cattle	86
Milk	27

wage award in midseason.

There is real concern about the wage-employment trade-off — a point emphasised by the World Bank, which is critical of labour policies that concentrate on distributional aspects rather than employment generation. Last year, farm employment in the commercial sector declined from 335,000 in 1979 to 327,000, well below the 1975 peak of 364,000. This is explained by the introduction of minimum wages in agriculture last year and the cutback in labour-intensive tobacco production in favour of maize, which uses relatively less labour.

If Zimbabwe is to get to grips with its employment generation problem, commercial farming must play a central role. Farms already account for some 32 per cent of total employment, and farmers argue that they need incentives in the form of higher prices to enable them to generate extra jobs and pay increased wages. The Riddell Commission pointed out that Zimbabwe has high quality food available at the lowest food prices in Africa, and advocated a change of emphasis by the phasing-out of food subsidies and the payment of higher producer prices to stimulate output in both the peasant and commercial sectors.

Commercial agriculture has few grounds for dissatisfaction with Mr Mugabe's policies, but the land and squatter issues are likely to pose increasingly serious problems in the 1980s and could disrupt the present cosy co-operation between agriculture and the state.

Country's advantage lies in its diverse resources

ZIMBABWE has a long history of mining and those involved in the industry are justifiably proud of this tradition and their skills.

It is a popular myth that nature has endowed the country with rich mineral resources; many of Zimbabwe's deposits are low-grade by world standards, especially in contrast with neighbouring South Africa. Its advantage lies in the diversity of the minerals it possesses. Among the world leaders in the production of gold and chrome, the country has a significant share in world output of asbestos, lithium, nickel and copper. In addition, the output of coal, iron ore, tin, silver and cobalt is substantial. Zimbabwe now produces more than 40 different minerals, and the important platinum group metals may soon be added to the list.

Last year was a good one for the mining industry, helped by the high price of gold and the lifting of economic sanctions. The value of mineral production reached Z\$ 414m (just over \$300m), a record for the 18th year in succession.

The industry accounted for about 8 per cent of Zimbabwe's gross domestic product, and contributed more than half its vital foreign exchange earnings.

Mining is one of the largest employers after the state, with a total of 70,478 people at the end of 1980. This is a rise of almost 14 per cent over the end-1979 figure despite retrenchment in some areas.

The current year will not be nearly so good. Indeed, the future of mining is clouded by a vast range of problems, some of which are not confined to Zimbabwe. Prices of both base and precious metals are generally at low levels, especially when compared with last year, and Zimbabwe is suffering together with other countries in this respect.

A severe shortage of skilled labour is another problem common to much of southern Africa, although this is alleviated to some extent in contrast with such countries as Namibia and South Africa by the comparatively high standard of education among the black population of Zimbabwe and the fact that there are no statutory barriers to their advancement.

Even so, the problem is still serious, to the extent that some people in the industry claim that even when the long-awaited upturn in demand for metals comes about Zimbabwe will not be able to take full advantage of it by raising output much above present levels.

A third general problem is the rapid rise in operating costs, exacerbated in Zimbabwe by the introduction of minimum wages. The general level of annual inflation in the country is estimated at about 15 per cent, but currency fluctuations, especially where equipment is paid for in U.S. dollars, mean that the mining industry's costs are probably rising at between 20 and 30 per cent annually.

The fourth major problem concerns transport, a perennial difficulty in this part of the world. Chamber of Mines statistics indicate that this has been so since at least as long ago as 1904.

Between 70 and 80 per cent of Zimbabwe's mineral output is exported, including all the

gold and nickel, and much of the asbestos, chrome, copper and silver. Iron ore is first made into pig iron or steel before being mostly exported.

The railway system is said never to have been able to handle the tonnages involved. Many of the products carried by rail are seasonal in nature, notably fertiliser in one direction and agricultural produce in the other, while minerals represent a steady traffic all year round.

Related to the problem of congestion on the railways is the landlocked location of the

MINING

GEORGE MILLING-STANLEY

country. Zimbabwe has to depend on its neighbours for access to the sea, and currently as much as 90 per cent by value of mineral exports are shipped through Durban, East London or Port Elizabeth. Despite strained relations with South Africa, the Government is trying to encourage the mining industry to route more of its goods through Mozambique.

This industry seems reluctant to do, claiming that of the two ports available, Beira is hopelessly inefficient and Maputo is at best erratic. The Government believes these claims are exaggerated and says that it is up to the industry to make better use of the facilities in Mozambique.

Apart from these problems, which are in many respects common to all countries in central Africa, Zimbabwe faces

some new ones which are entirely its own.

The recent budget introduced two changes in taxation which are already having profound effects on the mining industry and in some cases have led to cuts of up to 50 per cent in planned exploration spending in the current year.

This the country can ill afford, as prospecting activity has been at a low ebb for the past five years or so because of the struggle for political independence.

The first of these changes was the reduction in the capital redemption allowance from 100 per cent to 30 per cent, thus cutting substantially the amount of capital expenditure available to be offset against tax in any one year.

A Government official admitted that the new system was no fairer than the old, merely exchanging a benefit which, it could be argued, was too widely available, being of most use to new projects, for something which penalises everyone.

He indicated that it was still the subject of discussion with the industry in an attempt to arrive at an equitable solution. This change struck at industry in general, but mining sustained a double blow as the depletion allowance was abolished at the same time.

These two changes will mean the industry paying substantially more tax this year, which alters completely the financial parameters to which it has become accustomed. As yet no one has announced the cancellation of any major projects, and it seems likely that such plans as the Renco gold mine of Rio Tinto Mining Zimbabwe, the local arm of the Rio Tinto-Zinc group, will still go ahead.

Renco is expected to come into full production early next year as a medium-sized mine at a cost of something like Z\$20m, and with a grade of between 10 and 12 grammes of gold per tonne of ore it can be expected to be profitable even under the changed circumstances.

More problematical, however, is the same company's Zinca platinum group metals prospect. This operation, which could involve capital spending of up to Z\$100m, has been fully piloted, but it must be in danger of being abandoned if the Government proves inflexible on the tax question.

This is particularly unfortunate, as Zinca could expect a duration of something like 20 years. It would also be labour-intensive, provide development in what is now a rural area, and make a major contribution to foreign exchange earnings.

The final problem facing the mining industry, and one that some people regard as potentially the greatest threat, is the Government's decision to set up a state-controlled marketing agency to sell all the country's mineral output.

The legislation providing for this gives the agency extremely wide-ranging powers which could, if used to the full, amount to effective nationalisation of the industry.

The Government insists that it has no intention of taking control of production and is still in consultation with the industry as to the way its proposals will be applied. Until the outcome is known, this represents just one more reason why mining companies are becoming increasingly reluctant to commit further funds to mineral development in Zimbabwe.

Tobacco prices take off

A YEAR ago, many Zimbabwean tobacco growers were asking themselves whether life under sanctions had not been better than the return to free trade. The 1979-80 growing season was a very poor one for producers, giving rise to a large crop of indifferent quality fire-cured leaf. In addition, there was a substantial market overhang of unsold leaf from the sanctions period. As a result, the first half of the 1980 auction sales season was little short of a disaster.

Prices improved later in the year but over the sales season as a whole a total of 122.6m kilograms of leaf was sold at an average price of 79.5 cents per kg. This was not only at least 12 per cent below average production cost, but was also a lower price than the 82 cents obtained in 1979 and the 99 cents in 1978.

In mid-1980, in return for a package of financial guarantees to local merchants to support speculative buying of leaf, the Government imposed production quotas for the 1980-81 season reducing the crop size by 40 per cent to 70m kg. Some 40 growers left the industry, bringing the total number of producers down to 1,145 compared with 1,800 in the pre-sanctions years.

The production cutback

coincided with a marked international shift in favour of producers. The poor United States and Chinese crops resulted in substantial buying of Zimbabwean leaf stocks after the sales had closed, thereby reducing the carryover to more normal levels. Last season's good rains led to a vintage crop

TOBACCO

TONY HAWKINS

of high-quality leaf, though a little short in nicotine content, which proved to be exactly what the market was looking for.

Before the auction sales started in April, farmers were talking optimistically of a seasonal average price of around 130 cents a kg, but with nearly 80 per cent of the crop sold, the price is currently averaging 136 cents a kg and the average for the year is likely to be close to that level, which is 135 per cent higher than in 1980.

The stocks position probably will have changed for the better by the end of this year. In January 1981, stocks of fire-cured leaf in Zimbabwe were

estimated at 110m kg but that figure is likely to be down to 70m kg by December, of which only about 12m will represent "uncommitted" leaf. Due to transport bottlenecks, stocks may be rather higher than this, but the uncommitted margin will be small.

As a result of the substantially higher prices and buoyant short-run market outlook, at least 150 new and returning tobacco growers will plant leaf in 1981-82. The crop target has been lifted from last season's 70m kg (actual output is thought to have been 68m kg) to 86m kg. Allowing for over-production on quota and "normal" weather, that would give a maximum crop of around 100m kg. This means that, in addition to providing production quotas for new and returning growers, existing farmers will be allowed a 25 per cent rise in quota.

The crop expansion is probably rather less than the merchants and buyers would like and suggests that high prices will prevail again next year. Zimbabwe will be the second-largest exporter of fire-cured leaf after the United States, slightly ahead of India and Brazil. There are indications that prices will be buoyant next year, but costs may rise more rapidly than average prices over the next 12 months.

Worry over accelerating costs

WHENEVER TIMES are hard, Zimbabwean manufacturers tend to bolster their self-confidence by falling back on a Mica-werish belief that something will turn up. That "something" has never been defined, but is assumed to include peace and political stability; a fast growing economy; an expanding market; unrestricted access to international trade and finance; and increased investment and profits.

On the face of it, industry's expectations appear to be on the way to fulfilment. Peace has returned to the land. The governing party's substantial majority holds out the prospect of political stability. The economy's performance is impressive, even if some scepticism is in order over the officially indicated real GDP growth rate of almost 14 per cent for 1980. Private consumption expenditure, which rose last year by 20 per cent at current prices, is increasing even faster in 1981, judging by the 47 per cent rise in the first quarter retail trade value index. The volume of industrial output, helped by a substantial increase in import allocations, rose last year by almost 15 per cent, and has risen a further 13 per cent during the first five months of 1981. The industrial labour force expanded by over 10 per cent.

There has been little increase in manufactured exports, but the removal of sanctions has increased the potential for foreign sales. Company profits rose 29 per cent last year and although higher government spending was the major contri-

butory factor, total investment was 25 per cent higher in terms of current prices. A foreign capital inflow of over \$125m is expected to boost development in 1981-82.

Yet industrialists are worried. While the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries' initial reaction to the Budget was one of relief because rates of corporate taxation were not increased, second thoughts have suggested that the Budget has discouraging implications for the manufacturing sector. The reduction of capital expenditure in the special interest allowance, following on the January mini-

is placing too heavy a burden on available resources and that prices will increasingly reflect this. There is a feeling, too, that in their proposals for decent utilisation and manpower training, the policymakers underestimate the crucial importance of maintaining business viability.

The rate of increase in manufacturing costs is expected to accelerate following the Budget's imposition of a 5 per cent import surcharge and the virtual doubling of the petrol tax. The continuing drain on skilled personnel and transport bottlenecks are also major contributory factors to higher costs. Minimum wages are expected to rise when the Government implements its proposal to reduce subsidies. Expansion is being curbed by the deteriorating balance of payments position, which is expected to result in reduced import allocations in the final quarter of the current year. Several major exporters are likely to face problems when the trade agreement with South Africa ends next March. None of this holds out much encouragement for future profit growth.

Primarily because of the 50 per cent limitation on the remission of after-tax profits to foreign shareholders, the return of equity capital to external investors is probably insufficiently attractive by comparison with yields obtainable elsewhere. Certainly, private foreign investors have so far failed to follow the lead set by national governments and international agencies.

Uncertainty, mainly centres

INDUSTRY

J. A. C. GRUESTONE
Group Economist, Zimbabwe
Banking Corporation

Budget's removal of the investment allowance, together with the introduction of taxes on capital gains, interest and dividends are taken as signalling a considerably less sympathetic attitude towards capital investment.

The investment climate has also been unsettled by government action to prevent foreign ownership of domestic assets, by its acquisition of local industrial equity — for which a further \$20m is provided in the Budget — and by proposals to regulate and control industrial expansion and diversification. There is concern that fast-growing government spending



This is LONRHO

One of the largest and most diverse business concerns in the country. Our intention is to extend our role in the expansion of the internal and external trade of Zimbabwe thereby helping the country to achieve its ambitions.

The legislation providing for this gives the agency extremely wide-ranging powers which could, if used to the full, amount to effective nationalisation of the industry. The Government insists that it has no intention of taking control of production and is still in consultation with the industry as to the way its proposals will be applied. Until the outcome is known, this represents just one more reason why mining companies are becoming increasingly reluctant to commit further funds to mineral development in Zimbabwe.

LONRHO ZIMBABWE LIMITED
Investing in Zimbabwe's future

SSC&B/LTAB 2114



T A HOLDINGS LIMITED

INCORPORATED IN ZIMBABWE, P.O. BOX 3546, SALISBURY, TELE. RH 4126

Directors: S G Hayes CSB Freer AJ Farmerer BW Rooke S Shlom HE F Behr

CORPORATE PROFILE

T A HOLDINGS LIMITED is the largest Zimbabwean controlled company quoted on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, with a market capitalisation at 13 July 1981 of £25 million. It is the holding company of a large and diversified group of companies operating in most sectors of the economy.

The group has its origins in the tobacco industry when, in 1936 it established the country's first tobacco auction floor. In 1969 it adopted a policy of diversification which has resulted in the major expansion which subsequently occurred. The company obtained a quotation for its shares on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange in 1964, and now has some 6 000 shareholders.

The group operates in all the main centres in Zimbabwe, and in many of the smaller towns. It has over 7 000 people on its payroll, including associated companies.

T A espouses the concept of Zimbabwean control within the framework of private enterprise, and aims to fulfil its obligations to all its "stakeholders" — namely, employees, shareholders, customers and the community as a whole — to the best of its ability.

THE AUDITED RESULTS OF THE GROUP'S OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 1981

	1981 £000	1980 £000	% Increase
1. GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT			
Turnover — group	86 058	56 421	50.7
— share of associated companies	20 842	13 683	51.1
	106 700	70 084	50.8
Group operating profit before tax	6 867	4 731	45.1
Share of profits of associated companies	2 162	1 540	40.4
Group profit before tax	9 029	6 271	44.0
Taxation	2 441	2 202	10.9
Group profit after tax	6 588	4 069	61.9
Minority interest	1 557	944	65.0
Profit attributable to shareholders	5 031	3 125	61.0

2. GROUP BALANCE SHEET		
Source of capital		
Shareholders' equity	28 958	17 917
Minority interest	7 140	5 116
	36 098	23 033
Convertible debentures	2 373	2 373
Long term loans	6 321	10 124
	44 792	35 530

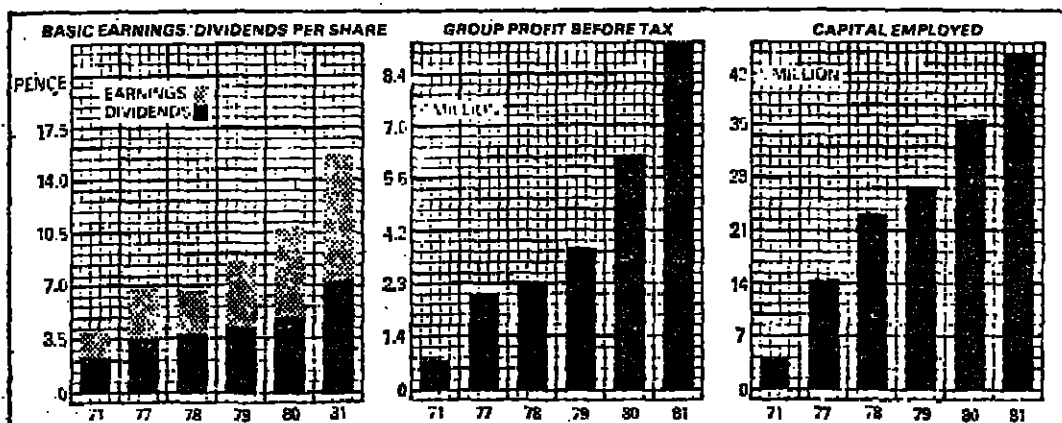
	1981 £000	1980 £000
Employment of capital		
Fixed assets	34 635	24 260
Long term debtors	1 258	1 789
Current assets	37 388	40 454
Current liabilities	28 489	30 953
Net current assets	8 899	9 501
	44 792	35 530

The rates of exchange applicable at 31 May 1981 were:
Z\$1.00 = £0.70
Z\$1.00 = US\$1.46

3. COMMENT ON THE YEAR'S RESULTS

The improved results were largely attributable to sustained organic growth and to increased efficiency and productivity. Much credit is therefore due to the boards, management and employees of the group's operating divisions for their admirable efforts. This was the first full year of free trading. The demand for products from our manufacturing companies increased enormously, and there were times when we doubted our ability to keep up the momentum and, in particular, to keep old machinery and vehicles fully operational. Export sales of a wide variety of the group's products greatly exceeded forecast and in general the relative boom which began in the final quarter of last year continued throughout the period under review.

A copy of the company's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 May 1981 is available upon request from the Secretary, P.O. Box 3546, Salisbury, Zimbabwe.



Note: The group changed its year-end from 31 October to 31 May. As the results for the transitional period of 7 months ended 31 May 1976 are not comparable they have not been included in the summary.

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SQUARE ONE

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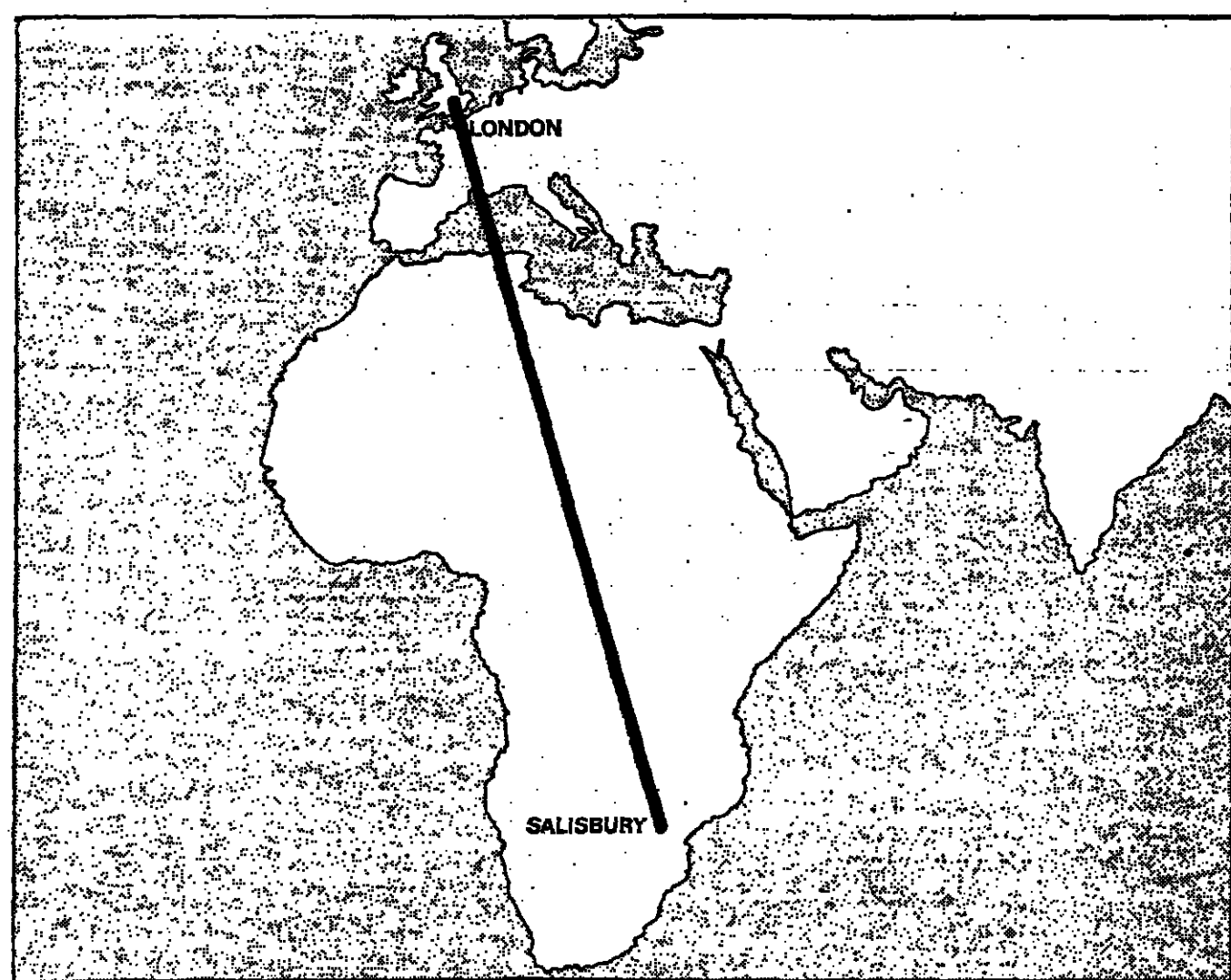
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Aid pledges will have 'substantial' impact

ALTHOUGH THE full impact of the successful Zimbabwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development (Zimcord) will not be felt until 1982-83, within three months of the conclusion of the donors' conference Z\$249m of the pledged aid inflows had already been committed. At the Zimcord meeting in March, donors pledged a total of Z\$1.3bn over a three year period, of which just over Z\$600m (47 per cent of the total) represented grants and the balance loans on varying concessional terms.

The Minister of Economic Planning and Development, Dr Bernard Chidzero, told Parliament last month that Zimcord resources will eventually have a "very substantial" impact on the economy, providing more than 40 per cent of total investment resources over the next three years.

There will, he says, be an acceleration in the number and volume of aid commit-

ments so that the entire Zimcord pledge will be realised during the 1981-84 transitional development plan period. The actual development plan itself has still to be published, but should be available by the end of this year.

The centrepiece of the plan is the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) covering the 1981/84 fiscal years, which envisages investment by government and parastatals totalling more than Z\$2bn of which Z\$635m is to be spent in the current fiscal year (to June 30, 1982) rising to Z\$676m in 1982/83 and to Z\$632m in the final 1983/84 year of the programme.

Highest priority in the programme has been given to the rural areas and to "people-oriented" expenditures. The largest component of the PSIP is the provision of Z\$378m (44 per cent of the total) for energy, transport and communications. Of this amount, Z\$331m (more than

half planned public sector investment) is being spent this year on such projects as Wankie thermal power station (total cost of Z\$218m), railway electrification (Z\$140m over three years), roads (Z\$97m) and posts and telecommunications (Z\$140m over three years).

Social services will absorb more than Z\$468m (33 per cent of the total) of which education's share will be Z\$163m (8 per cent of the total programme) and housing Z\$290m (nearly 20 per cent of the total). In education there is heavy emphasis on secondary schooling, especially in rural areas and Z\$24m is provided for vocational training which Dr Chidzero says will more than double present output of skilled workers from the technical colleges.

Rural development and agriculture will absorb Z\$441m (17 per cent of the total) of which about one-third is earmarked for land reclamation and resettlement programmes.

The intensive rural development strategy involves heavy investment in extension services and training facilities and state spending on rural infrastructure including marketing facilities and the provision of agricultural credit for peasant producers.

Only a relatively small proportion of the Zimcord aid is tied, though officials still describe this as "significant" and in his budget speech the Finance Minister, Senator Nkomo, appealed to donors for "flexibility" in aid terms.

Just how much Zimcord aid inflows will contribute towards an easing of the private sector's demand for foreign exchange is unclear as yet. One informed estimate is that at least 20 per cent of the Z\$1.3bn will represent "free" money that is funds earmarked to finance local costs which would thereby release foreign currency for alternative uses.

Tony Hawkins

Misguided optimism gives way to sound sense

THE COLLAPSE of share prices on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange since January is frequently cited as a visible sign of waning business confidence. It would be idle to deny that business expectations have been revised downwards in recent months, but this is partly — if not substantially — explained in terms of naively misguided optimism last year.

Soon after independence, one of the country's main investment advisory services advised clients to buy into equities in anticipation of a "very large" increase in profits. That such a recommendation should have been made within weeks of the election to office of an avowedly socialist administration raised a few eyebrows, but the advice was widely taken, and shortly after Mr Nkomo's little-changed 1980 budget, industrial share prices took off. The share price index rose from the 350 level in mid-1980 to a record high of 497 last January — taking the total rise since the start of the Lancaster House constitutional conference in September 1979 to 50 per cent.

The 45 per cent fall in prices since January is explained by increased taxes in the January and July budgets (including the imposition of a 30 per cent capital gains tax on share transactions and a 15 per cent tax on dividends declared by local companies), by higher interest rates, by government purchase on controlling interests in three listed industrial companies (Zimbabwe Newspapers, Zimbank Ltd, and Caps Holdings) and by a growing realisation that inflationary pressures necessitated higher nominal yields. Yields have more than doubled in the past eight months.

In part, the change in investor sentiment represents a shift away from last year's assessment that the Mugabe Government would talk socialist

but act conservative. The realisation that the Government is committed to change is relatively recent. In February, "Growth with Equity" economic policy document was published setting out the Mugabe Administration's attitude towards private sector investment. It would be an exaggeration to say it was welcomed by the private sector, but organised business certainly saw it as a moderate and pragmatic document.

"Growth with Equity" promises increased participation in the ownership and management of the economy by the Government and also by Zimbabwean nationals, while retaining a

INVESTMENT POLICY

TONY HAWKINS

mixed economy. It is general policy, the paper says, to encourage "domestic participation" in productive enterprises within the economy.

Foreign investors will be expected to provide domestic equity participation "within a reasonable period of time." No special or preferential taxation, exchange control or import control benefits will be granted as a condition of state participation, where this occurs.

A key paragraph in the paper, which gave rise to subsequent controversy, reads: "As a general rule, the absolute amount of existing domestic participation in domestic enterprises should not be diluted in future, by sale to foreign interests; nor must an existing domestic control level of equity holding be allowed to pass to foreign investors."

When the paper was published, the Zimbabwean industrial subsidiary of the British

Turner and Newall group (Turner Holdings) was in the throes of a reverse takeover of the listed Zimbabwean industrial conglomerate Mashonaland Holdings Ltd. This takeover clearly conflicted with the stated guideline, but because the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe — which focused on the currency implications of the deal — had given permission, the sponsors went ahead.

When, inevitably, the Government banned the merger and subsequently announced the establishment of a foreign investment committee to vet external equity participation in domestic enterprise, business spokesmen responded with outraged indignation, seemingly appalled that the Government was actually implementing its policies and not just talking about them. The incident did little for the already tarnished image of multinationals in Zimbabwe.

Six months later, the gap between private and public sector thinking on investment policy appears even wider. Castigating the recent budget, the president of the Chamber of Mines, Mr Roy Lander, accused the finance minister of effectively hanging out the sign "Foreign investors not welcome." His counterpart, the president of the Zimbabwe Chamber of Industries, Mr Bert Yarrowood, has called for a drastic revision of investment policies.

Two issues lie at the heart of the investment policy controversy. Firstly, it is argued in Government that with an estimated 65-75 per cent of the private sector capital stock already owned by foreigners, an "open-door" policy towards new foreign investment would be misguided. What is needed, as stipulated in "Growth with Equity" is localisation or internalisation of at least some of this capital.

In the 1981 budget \$20m was

set aside for just this purpose: buying equity at market-related prices in foreign-owned companies. In all the three cases to date (with a fourth pending in the negotiations with the Zimbabwe Omnibus Company), Government has bought out foreign and not domestic shareholders. Government is also firmly committed to encouraging joint ventures (the BCCZ Bank being the first and most visible example), especially in strategic industries such as energy.

Secondly, there is a dispute between private sector interests demanding a detailed investment code and those in government arguing that previously stated policies are explicit enough and that government would be unwise to tie its own hands by specifying investment guidelines before entering into negotiations with individual firms.

The net effect of Government policy pronouncements — most notably the proposed state-owned minerals marketing agency — on the one hand, and the over-reaction of local businessmen to such statements on the other, has been a disappointingly low level of private foreign investment. Last year's balance of payments figures show a net inflow of \$100m on private capital account.

It is early days yet, but two lessons can be drawn. Firstly, the necessity for government to look at individual investment projects on their merits rather than setting out an elaborate, costly and possibly ineffective set of investment incentives and guidelines. Secondly, the need for the private sector to accept localisation and Zimbabweanisation and concentrate more on improving the domestic investment climate rather than relying on foreigners. Unfortunately in an economy so dominated by multinationals, this is easier said than done.

Three issues change climate

THIS HAS been a year of major change for Zimbabwe's banking and financial system. A new commercial bank, Bank of Credit and Commerce Zimbabwe (BCCZ), opened its doors in Salisbury, bringing the total of retail commercial banks to five — the others being Standard, Barclays, Grindlays and Zimbank. BCCZ is a joint venture between the Zimbabwe Government (owning 47 per cent of the equity) and the BCC group, listed by The Banker magazine as the tenth largest Arab bank in the world. Government hopes that BCCZ will focus on rural banking as part of the rural development and decentralisation strategy.

A second major change was the Government's surprise purchase early this year of a controlling interest in the Zimbank, the country's second largest banking group. Bank of America had been negotiating the purchase of a controlling stake in Zimbank, formerly Rhobank, and 6 per cent owned by Nedbank in South Africa. However, Government stepped in to purchase a controlling interest at a market related price.

Two major international banks — Citibank and Banque Internationale pour l'Afrique Occidentale, part of the BNP group — have opened regional or representative offices in Zimbabwe in recent months.

This has also been a year of substantial change in monetary policy. In February, the bank rate was raised from 4.5 per cent to 6 per cent — the first such change in the rate for nearly 20 years. This was obviously inadequate and last week the authorities took far tougher measures to restrict credit and dampen consumption by raising Bank Rate to 9 per cent and the prime borrowing rate from commercial banks was pushed up 400 base points to 13 per cent. At the same time, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe has moved to slow the growth in the money

supply after the 34 per cent expansion in M2 last year.

Statutory reserve balances held with the Reserve Bank by the commercial banks, accepting houses and finance houses were raised from 6 per cent to 8 per cent in the case of demand deposits and from 3 per cent to 4 per cent for time deposits as part of the credit restraint strategy. Although the statutory liquidity ratio of the commercial banks remains at 35 per cent of their liabilities to the public, early in the year the banks were "advised" to work to a 40 per cent ratio.

These monetary measures were designed to promote savings and discourage "non-essential and postponable expenditure" under conditions of mounting inflationary pressures. The business sector, which believes that the main source of inflationary pressure in the economy is government expenditure and borrowing from the banks, complained that the authorities were treating the symptom rather than the disease.

Since the introduction of the new measures, three main developments have changed the monetary climate. Firstly, the growth of the money supply in terms of M2 slowed to less than 4 per cent in the first seven months of 1981. This compares with 13.6 per cent in 1979 and more than 34 per cent last year. The primary reason for the slowdown has not been the new policy so much as a reduction in the rate of government borrowing from the banks.

Last year, when the money supply (M2) rose \$243m, government borrowing increased \$224m. The most recently published figures cover only the first quarter of 1981 but these show government borrowings rising by only \$4m. Given the 18 per cent increase in the public sector borrowing requirement in 1981-82, government borrowing from the banks will pick up in the latter part of this

year but should still be well below last year's high levels. The money supply growth also slowed this year because of the policy of running down the foreign reserves from their October 1980 peak level.

Secondly, money market liquidity has tightened considerably and commercial banks are at, or close to, the recommended 40 per cent liquidity ratio level. The authorities have been predicting an easing in the liquidity position but this is still not clear and there are signs of further short-term tightening. A major reason for this situation is borrowing by the state-owned

BANKING

TONY HAWKINS

Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA) — euphemistically described by the monetary authorities as private sector borrowing) to finance the record maize crop, more than 1m tonnes of which, worth over \$250m, is being stockpiled. One informed estimate is that it could take up to three years to move the maize stockpile, which will impose a serious burden on the financial sector.

Liquidity is expected to tighten further over the next few weeks, as farmers start borrowing to finance their 1981-82 crops, but thereafter the expectation is that recycled AMA funds — the authority's borrowings being paid out to farmers — will flow back into the system and prevent a liquidity crisis. Liquidity is also being strained by the transport congestion which is slowing the movement of exports and imports, with the result that foreign exchange inflows are slower than normal.

The third development has been the continuing upward

movement in nominal interest rates. After the bank rate was raised to 6 per cent in February, the treasury bill rate promptly moved up from 3.3 per cent to almost 5 per cent at the end of March. It hovered around that level for some months but recently has started to move ahead again, reaching 5.5 per cent early this month. This movement has been taking place against a background of repeated assertions by the Finance Minister and the governor of the Reserve Bank that interest rates will not be increased again. Bankers complain that within a fortnight of a budget statement to that effect, the authorities were forced to push up their own borrowing rate for short term Government stock from 6.4 per cent to 7 per cent.

The rise in rates is more nominal than real given the fact that inflation in 1981 is expected to be virtually double last year's 8.2 per cent. There are few grounds for optimism about the ability of the authorities, using fiscal and monetary policy, materially to curb inflation and most forecasters expect it to remain high (15 per cent or more) over the next 1984 months. Direct controls on prices are likely to be Government's only recourse but such is the increase in demand that this would only curb prices at the cost of shortages, rationing and black marketeering.

A continuing high level of inflation would place the exchange rate under increasing pressure. The Zimbabwe dollar parity is determined against a basket of currencies, the major ones being the U.S. dollar, the South African rand (20 per cent) and sterling (14 per cent). Official policy has been to maintain the existing currency parity in trade-weighted terms, which has meant depreciation against the U.S. dollar in particular, but appreciation in terms of sterling, the rand, and some European currencies.

Crucial decision on electricity generation needed soon

ENERGY

TONY HAWKINS

WITH INVESTMENT in the energy sector estimated to cost a minimum of \$250m during the 1980s, energy policy is clearly a major issue. There are two quite distinct problems—one immediate and one medium-term. The immediate problem stems from inadequate transport capacity to move supplies of liquid fuels by rail and road. But petroleum provides only

11 per cent of total energy supplies in Zimbabwe (1979 figures) and the far more important medium-term issue relates to the supply of electric power—specifically the choice between coal-fired, thermal power and hydroelectric power.

Energy consumption in Zimbabwe in 1979 was estimated at 5.5m tonnes of oil equivalent (TOE) or about 5.5 barrels of oil equivalent per capita. About 84 per cent of this was provided domestically and 16 per cent imported. Eleven per cent of energy supply took the form of imported oil and 5 per cent of electricity imported from neighbouring Zambia.

Energy supply in 1979 was 31 per cent electricity, 29 per cent coal, 29 per cent wood and 11 per cent imported oil. Petrol consumption actually declined in the 1973 to 1980 period, partly reflecting higher prices and the slowdown in the economy, but also the opening of the ethanol plant last year which, using sugar as feedstock, produces some 15 per cent of total petrol production. The ethanol is mixed with 1 per cent benzol to produce blend petrol.

Zimbabwe is committed to expanding its coal-fired thermal power generation with the construction of phase one of the

Wankie power station with a capacity of 480 Mw, which is due to come on stream by 1983. But a decision will have to be made before very much longer on future energy supply strategy—the choice between further development of domestic thermal and coal resources or the early development of extra hydropower resources linked, at least as an interim measure, with electricity imports from Zambia, Zaire or Mozambique.

The potential exists in both cases. The country's coal reserves are put at 25bn tonnes, equivalent, at current usage rates, to 10,000 years' worth of coal. Unused hydro potential on

the Zimbabwe side alone of the Zambezi river is put at 3.5 times the country's total 1979 consumption.

Energy demand estimates suggest that decisions on extra supply capacity must be made soon. The investment cost in the first half of the 1980s is put at \$350m a year and these expenditures will have to be accompanied by higher prices for energy, which in turn could well slow down energy usage.

Thermal power will involve similar investment levels to hydropower, but will cost more per unit of electricity, although thermal plants could be constructed and brought on stream more rapidly. Even if an early decision were made on hydro-

power development, it would still be necessary to import electricity for some periods from neighbouring countries.

Whichever option is followed, it is certain that electricity costs will rise, because the energy sector will have to generate at least some of its own finance for development. One estimate is that the present electricity tariff will have to be raised some 80 per cent to provide about 30 per cent self-finance by the energy sector.

The supply of liquid fuels—which ran short in August and

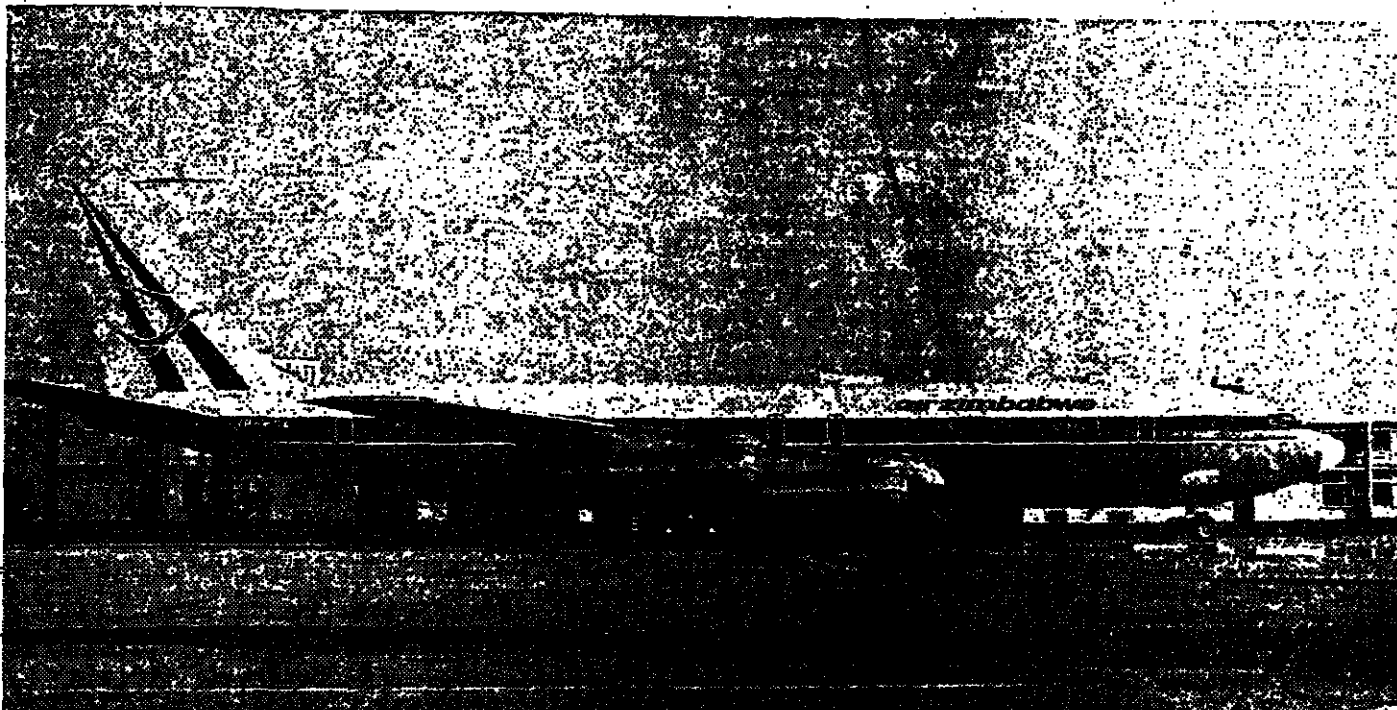
September—should improve radically from the end of this year when the Beira to Umtali oil pipeline, closed since 1966, becomes operational once again. About 40 kilometres of the 300 kilometre pipeline have to be replaced but the owners (Lourio) are confident that it will be ready to resume operations by the end of 1981.

It was built in the early 1960s to supply crude oil to the Feruka pipeline, but it will now be used to bring in petrol and diesel fuel, thereby ending Zimbabwe's present dependence on South Africa for some of its liquid fuels.

The reopening of the pipeline

will also reduce the demand for capacity on the railways and thereby improve transport capacity. The fly in the ointment is the fear that the pipeline will be vulnerable to attack by the anti-Government Mozambique resistance movement.

Liquid fuel supplies also pose a major decision problem—whether to renovate and reopen the Feruka oil refinery, closed in 1966. It has been reported in Salisbury that the Government is unlikely to reopen the refinery, which was built to serve a different market (Zambia and Zimbabwe) under very different conditions nearly 20 years ago.



An Air Zimbabwe Boeing 707 at London Gatwick airport. Flights to Britain started shortly after independence. The airline also runs a service to Frankfurt and is planning to expand into southern Europe.

Shortages of vehicles and fuel hold back economic growth

TRANSPORT BOTH within Zimbabwe and from Zimbabwe to its sea outlets is a major constraint on economic growth and external payments.

Within Zimbabwe there are major delays in moving the maize and cotton crops to the marketing depots. In part, this reflects the shortage of vehicles but recently a new bottleneck has developed in the form of inadequate diesel supplies and in the past few weeks, inadequate petrol supplies. More serious probably is the inability of the state-owned National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) to move all the traffic on offer.

In the year to June 1980 the NRZ moved some 14m tonnes of goods—the largest level of traffic recorded since the break-up in 1967 of the unitary Rhodesia Railways system that served both Zimbabwe and Zambia. The NRZ believes that traffic on offer was of the order of 15 to 16m tonnes suggesting that the system is 10 to 15 per cent short in capacity.

Two inter-related issues lie at the heart of the rail transport problem. The first is the lack of adequate motive power capacity. The NRZ has an effective locomotive fleet of 255 diesels and 30 steam engines, but less than 50 per cent of the diesel fleet is in service at any time while about 60 per cent of the steam locomotives are operational. In theory, the in-service availability of diesels ought to reach a maximum ratio of some 70 per cent, but—and this is where the second issue comes in—the railways are critically short of skilled artisans. Seven months ago, the World Bank estimated the labour shortfall in the fleet to be 350, out of a total establishment of 1,200—implying a 30 per cent shortfall.

At present, NRZ cannot achieve adequate levels of in-service availability of diesel electric locos because of the serious shortage of skilled labour necessary to maintain the fleet. The position is made the more difficult by the fact that during the sanctions period, the railways were forced to buy and build various "hybrid" diesel locomotives with which workers are unfamiliar and which are more difficult to service and repair.

In the short-term, two main policies are being pursued to remedy this situation. Expatriate workers are being recruited in both India and Pakistan on contract terms to help meet the immediate shortage. The first 25 people arrived early this month and the NRZ is also seeking contract employees in the UK.

At the same time, locomotive capacity will start to improve in early 1982 when the first 25 diesel electric locos ordered from General Motors of the U.S. start to arrive. This order was recently increased to 60 locomotives and motive power has been boosted also by hiring nine diesels from Mozambique and four from Zambia. A further 22 locomotives are currently being rehabilitated and will come on stream in the second quarter of 1982.

It is hoped too that movement capacity will be improved next year when the Beira to Umtali oil pipeline, which has been

closed since 1966, reopens at the end of this year.

Longer term improvement will come too from the electrification of the 335-km line from Dabuka, near Gwelo in the midlands, to Salisbury, due for completion by the end of 1982.

Stage two of electrification will cover the Dabuka (Gwelo) to Chicualacuala (on the Mozambique border) section of the line to the Mozambique port of Maputo and possibly also the line to South Africa via Beit Bridge, while the third stage due to be completed by 1990 will cover the Bulawayo to Dabuka line. It is planned to phase out steam locomotives in the mid-1990s.

There has already been a significant shift of traffic to the Mozambique ports of Maputo and Beira thereby reducing, to some extent, Zimbabwean dependence on the South African railways and ports. Prior to the constitutional settlement at the end of 1979, all rail traffic was using the direct line via Beit Bridge to the South African ports of Durban, Cape Town, and East London or the indirect line via Botswana to South Africa. The Beira line was reopened early last year and that to Maputo came back on stream in October.

Latest figures show that some 27 per cent of total rail traffic is now using the two Mozambique ports and the balance goes through South Africa. This refers not just to Zimbabwean traffic of course but also regional traffic for Zaire and Zambia.

At present, Maputo is handling one train a day of some 2,000 tonnes of traffic but the Mozambique Railways estimate that they will eventually be able to cope with three to four times this traffic load on the Maputo route. On the Beira line, five trains of 800 tonnes a week are being accepted.

TRANSPORT

TONY HAWKINS

Wagon supplies are not a problem at present. Officials tend to play down the frequent accusations levelled by the politicians at the South Africans, who are blamed for trying to "sabotage" the Zimbabwean economy by deliberately delaying traffic movements on their own system. The South African response is that they too have a record maize crop and their own system is under very heavy strain.

Diesel fuel is being rationed by the South African railways to the Beit Bridge border depot from where it is being taken by road to consumers in Zimbabwe. The recent petrol shortage cannot be blamed on the South Africans since the petrol is being brought in by rail from Mozambique, while some aviation spirit is being brought by road from Zambia.

Railway development and expansion has increased trade with the U.S., Britain and other countries. The U.S. has the contract for the 60 diesel electric locomotives, while British companies—Waddinghouse, Balfour Beatty, GEC and

Hawker-Siddeley—have won signalling and ancillary service contracts for overhead line, switchgear, etc. The only electrification contract not won by a British or local group is the contract for electric locos which has gone to the so-called 50 cycles consortium of West European contractors. Stage one of electrification will cost more than \$3100m.

It is estimated that traffic in the current year (1981/2) will be up by at least 20 per cent and possibly more and it seems clear that transport will continue to be a severe constraint on the economy for the next 18 months at least—and probably a good deal longer.

A further problem is finance. The NRZ say that some 70 per cent of its traffic is carried at rates held down by the Government to subsidise the economy. According to the World Bank, operating efficiency is high when compared with other African rail systems. Staff productivity averaged 305,000 net ton kilometres per employee in the 1974/79 period rising to 380,000 net ton km in 1980.

With Government having set

its face against food subsidies, it is possible that the NRZ will be allowed, in the not too distant future, to increase rates in subsidised traffic. Certainly this would be good for employee morale at a time when the system is suffering from a debilitating drain of not just skills but also experience.

Air communications have, predictably, expanded very substantially since independence. Air Zimbabwe started direct flights to London Gatwick shortly after independence and subsequently introduced one flight a week to Frankfurt. The next intercontinental expansion is likely to be to Southern Europe—possibly Yugoslavia or Rumania, not just for political reasons but to ease access to the Middle East.

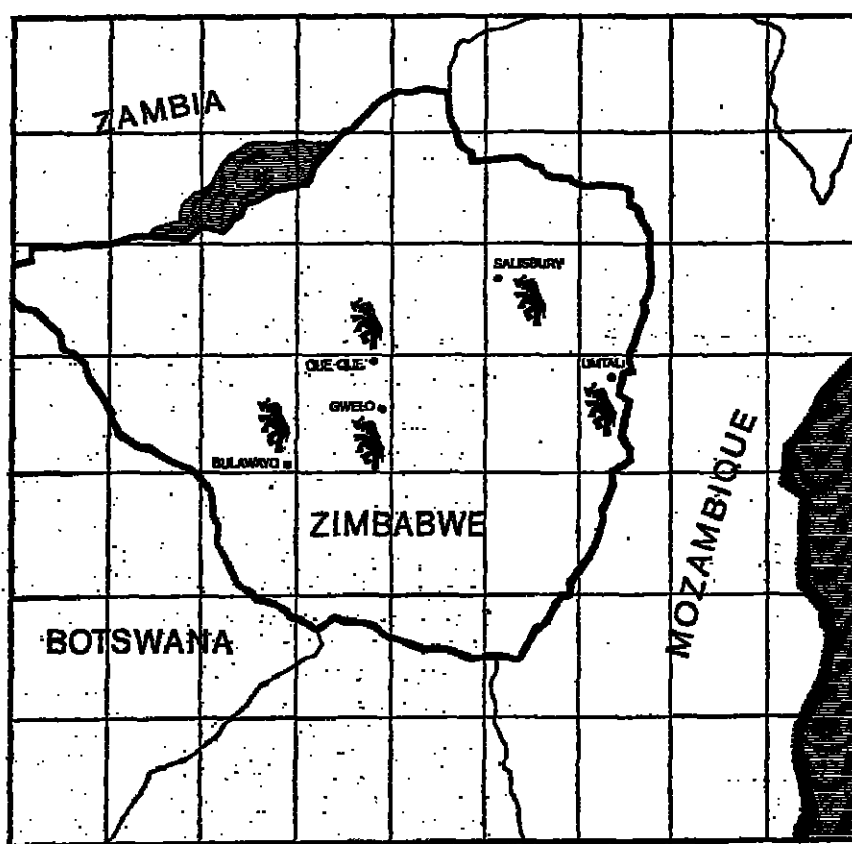
International airlines flying into Salisbury include British Airways, South African Airways, Kenya Airways, Ethiopia Airways, IAM (Mozambique), Royal Swazi and Air India. Lufthansa is expected to fly into Zimbabwe next year and TAP may also resume flights to and from Portugal suspended during the war.



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Army integration a major success

THE SHARP knock on the door of the suburban Salisbury home conveyed authority. On the mat stood two policemen, one black, one white. The latter looked down at his notebook.

The houseowner's Dalmatian bitch was on heat and neighbourhood dogs had been fighting in an effort to service her. In the words of policemen around the world, the said Dalmatian bitch was creating a nuisance. Would the owner please keep her under control?

Eighteen months after a war in which nearly 30,000 people died, the former British South Africa Police—renamed the Zimbabwe Republic Police—have reverted from their paramilitary role during the conflict to that of a respected, neutral, peacetime force.

On the military front an equally remarkable transformation has taken place. When the contesting parties met across the table at the Lancaster House conference in 1979, about 100,000 men were under arms.

They comprised the Zimbabwe African National Army (Zanla) of Mr Robert Mugabe, leader of Zanu-PF; the Zimbabwe Peoples Revolutionary Army (Zipra) of Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Patriotic Front (PF); and the Rhodesian forces, nominally loyal to the then Prime Minister, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, but

effectively controlled by Mr Ian Smith and Lt-Gen. Peter Walls. These forces included some 15,000 men in the regular Army, backed by 20,000 territorials and 20-30,000 black auxiliaries.

Between them the two nationalist leaders commanded an army of some 55,000 men—roughly two-thirds Zanla and one-third Zipra. Of these 24,000 gathered in assembly places around the country, in terms of the Lancaster House cease-fire, Others remained in the bush at camps in Zanzibar, Angola and Mozambique; some were undergoing training abroad; and thousands of mujibas—young messengers and helpers—many of whom were later to claim a place in the regular army that was soon to be formed.

The disarming and integration into a national force of three armies presented the Government of Mr Mugabe with the biggest single challenge of its first year in office.

Yet progress so far has been remarkable, to the surprise of many observers who feared that the combination of white bitterness and the predominantly Ndebele make-up of Zipra and the Shona nature of Zanla would prove explosive.

A joint high command comprising officers from the three forces worked for the most part smoothly with a 160-member

British Military Advisory and Training Team, persuading guerrillas to take part in the integration programme.

It was not without hitches, however. The first sign of serious trouble came last November when two encampments of Zanla and Zipra in the Bulawayo township of Entumbane clashed. The outbreak was soon contained, but a second bout of hostilities last February threatened to tear Zimbabwe apart.

Fighting in three of the integrated barracks in the midlands province of Zimbabwe spread to Entumbane. At one point Mr Mugabe threatened to use the white-piloted Zimbabwe Air Force against a rebellious Zipra column moving from the heavily armed camp at Gwaili River, 180 miles north-west of Bulawayo, towards their colleagues in Entumbane.

By the time the violence had been quelled—using the white-officer former Rhodesia African Rifles and over 100 people, mainly in Entumbane, had died. As it turned out, the violence provided a salutary shock to both sides. Zimbabwe moved back from the brink of serious disruption and the integration exercise continued.

By the end of last month only 6,000 guerrillas had yet to be integrated into an army which now stands at some 65,000, and in which relations between former Zipra and Zanla men are said to be good.

It has been an expensive exercise. Overall defence spending is running at some Z\$800,000 a day, and consuming 14 per cent of the budget—though down on the 1979-80 peak of Z\$1.1m a day, taking 37 per cent of the budget.

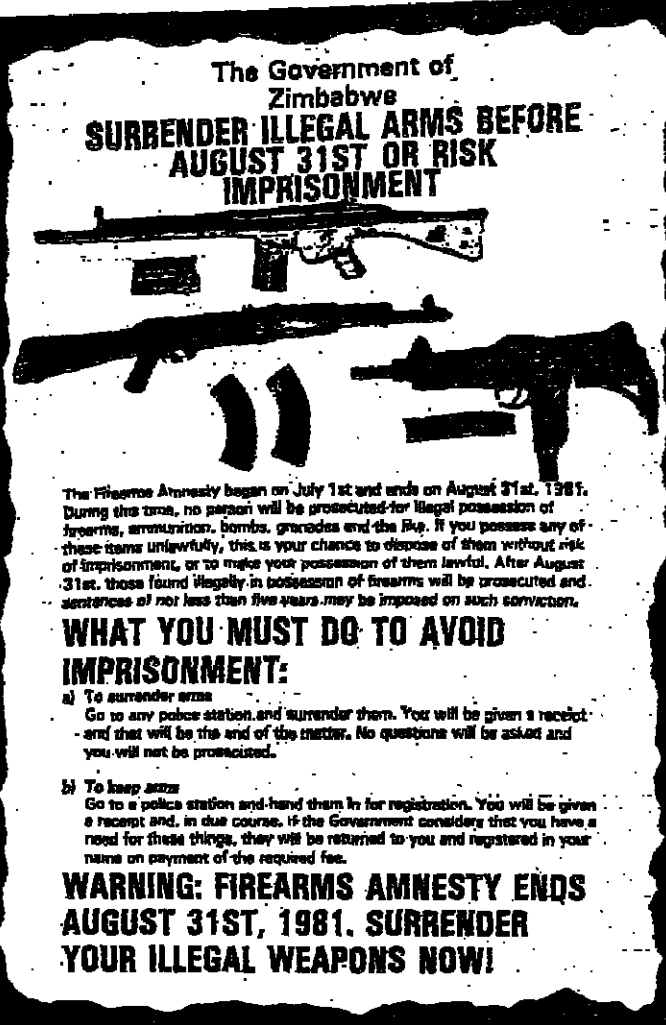
Defence spending is expected to remain high for the next two or three years as the Government sets about the final phase of the military programme: the reduction of the army in stages to perhaps 25,000—though no official figure is available.

The demobilisation programme, yet to be formally implemented although some men have already volunteered, will be costly in itself. To prepare soldiers for civilian life, men who will leave the army will, in addition to receiving Z\$185 a month gratuity for up to two years, be offered the chance to take part in training programmes.

Meanwhile, the white component of the Army has been sharply reduced. Units such as the Rhodesia Light Infantry have been disbanded and only 300 or so officers are left in the Army.

The Zimbabwe Air Force is still white-piloted and has a majority of white technicians, however.

Changes have also taken place at the top. Lt-Gen. Walls retired last July after a dispute with the Prime Minister and



The Government's arms amnesty met with a disappointing response. Under 3,000 weapons were handed in but tens of thousands are thought to be illegally held

the joint high command has been disbanded.

Mr Mugabe remains Minister of Defence and Gen. Sandy Maclean, formerly of the regular Rhodesian army, is Commander of Combined Operations; Lt-Gen. Rex Nkhomo, ex-Zanla, is Army commander, and Lt-Gen. Lookout Musuku, ex-

SECURITY

MICHAEL HOLMAN

Zipra, is deputy Army commander. Air Marshall Norman Walsh heads the Air Force.

Perhaps the most contentious military development was the announcement last month that a 106-strong North Korean team, based at barracks near Inyanga on the eastern border, would be training a national army brigade, which would include an unspecified number of tanks.

Mr Mugabe spoke of its possible deployment against "disidents" and, at a time of considerable speculation about the creation of a one-party state, the news left some senior Patriotic Front officials apprehensive. Mr Nkomo, in a direct clash with the Prime Minister, condemned the move.

The Front's fears have been heightened by the likelihood that three of the five battalions in the "Korean Brigade" will be drawn from Zanla, and although the remaining two battalions will include former members of both Zanla and Zipra the brigade will be dominated by Mr Mugabe's supporters.

Military observers in Salisbury see no sinister significance in this. They point out that Zanla men do outnumber Zipra after all, though they acknowledge that the brigade may well

be expected to play a key internal security role.

Nor do the observers see the North Korean presence as indicating a marked shift in Zimbabwe's alignment. It is thought to have been the result of an offer Mr Mugabe could hardly refuse. The North Koreans were major backers of Zanu-PF during the war, and ties remain close.

Substantial military aid was offered during Mr Mugabe's visit to North Korea last year, and renewed earlier this year, leaving him in no position to turn down help from old allies.

In logistical and training terms, however, the Korean Brigade may pose problems. Maintaining it as a self-sufficient unit will be impractical, for there must of necessity be a high degree of integration with the rest of the Army—notably in communications, training and compatibility of weapons and other equipment.

This is an increasingly important issue. The new Government inherited a range of weapons and munitions, reflecting the different backers of the three armies. Last month a massive arms dump exploded—an accident—destroyed millions of pounds' worth of supplies. It has forced the pace of an exercise reviewing Zimbabwe's military needs.

Thus a recent advertisement in UK papers, seeking radio technicians, mechanics, caterers, dentists and computer operators, offered "the greatest opportunity under the sun... if you have a sense of adventure put your special skill to work in Zimbabwe's new national Army."

The country has come a long way from the days when British governments were bitterly criticised by guerrilla leaders for failing to stop servicemen joining the Rhodesian Army.

Act in train to ease labour problems

"THE DOMINANT and most lasting impression made upon Commissioners from the outset of the work of the Commission has been the degree of dissatisfaction, the depth of bitterness, ill feeling and sometimes anger, and the frustration expressed by the work force in Zimbabwe today." (Report of the Riddell Commission of Inquiry into Incomes, Prices and Conditions of Service).

THE UNTHINKABLE happened earlier this month. La Fontaine restaurant at Melkies Hotel in Salisbury, favourite venue of journalists, businessmen and visiting politicians, turned away lunchtime diners. Hotel staff were on strike. Not even closing the doors and windows of the 1971 restaurant had the Salisbury establishment been subjected to such inconvenience.

Fortunately, a government official intervened, the problem was resolved, and workers were back at the tables that night. Things did not go so smoothly in the first months after independence, marked by a country-wide wave of strikes. Government is now better equipped to deal with them and in the meantime has introduced minimum wages.

But the warning of the Riddell Commission still holds. For the accumulated resentments and high expectations of the in-coming labour force are a powerful combination.

Nor has government had time since independence to work out a new industrial relations framework in which workers' grievances can be expressed. It inherited the complex and authoritarian Industrial Conciliation Act which at least needs overhaul and may well be replaced by a new act.

For any businessman needing to come to grips with labour and associated issues in Zimbabwe, the Riddell Report is required reading. The 330 pages are encyclopaedic in their coverage of incomes, prices, conditions of service, trade unions, taxation, job evaluation and more besides.

It is surprising that a major government policy tool affecting everyone from managing directors to factory floor workers and peasant farmers, has not been widely distributed in a short, simplified version. The answer may well be that Government itself has mixed feelings about the merits and implications of some of the Commission's recommendations. What is clear, however, is that as in so many areas, the Government faces a formidable task in drawing up a manpower policy.

The formal education system churning out scores of thousands of young people each year who cannot be absorbed in the formal work sector, yet are ill-fitted for any alternatives. The trade union movement is poorly organised and without a clear role. Skilled manpower is short and exacerbated by a high emigration rate of at least 2,000 a month.

It should be said, however, that the manpower inheritance of the government would have been the envy of neighbouring states. Zambia, for example, Indian Ocean plus Zimbabwe's game—in addition to the Victoria Falls, which remains the country's greatest tourist asset.

There is a third problem, which is possibly the most serious: the high cost of flying to Salisbury from Europe, Kenya is quoted as an example of a country which has managed to offer inclusive tours within the reach of the average prosperous European. Air Zimbabwe and British Airways offer nothing to compare with Kenya prices, and although the government hopes that competition—in the shape of new European carriers currently negotiating schedules to Salisbury—will bring down fares, there is no early sign of a breakthrough.

came to independence with a handful of graduates. By contrast Zimbabwe has several thousand blacks who have passed through either the University of Salisbury or at institutions abroad.

Ironically, the guerrilla and the long call-up of whites forced employers to make greater use, at higher levels of responsibility, of their black staff.

Perhaps the Government's most notable success to date has been the massive expansion in school enrolment. Primary school pupils shot up from 819,900 in 1979 to 1,236,000 in 1980 and 1,680,000 this year. Secondary school figures are equally startling, jumping from 893,000 in 1979 to 1,310,000 in 1980 and 1,825,000 this year.

Primary school enrolments are expected to reach 2m by the

MANPOWER

MICHAEL HOLMAN

end of the next decade—an expansion which needs 2,500 to 3,000 new teachers each year. The proud boast of the Ministry of Education is that over 90 per cent of school age children are in classrooms.

But as a senior official remarked: "We have coped with the quantitative problems—now we must tackle the qualitative problem—what sort of education should the children be getting?"

Dr Herbert Murewa, secretary for the Ministry of Manpower, Planning and Development, reminded a recent seminar on education that rapid expansion of formal education in other African countries had simply produced "educated unemployment."

"Education," he said, "must prepare our young people for the world of work. With appropriate skills, knowledge, young people could organise self-employment programmes for themselves in the informal sector."

It is a pressing problem. The Zimcord meeting in Salisbury earlier this year had before it an estimate that if the economy expanded at 8 per cent a year in real terms, 85,000 jobs would be created each year in the modern sector—yet some 137,500 work-seekers come on to the market each year. The Riddell Report notes that "if only 75 per cent of them look for work, then there will be a shortfall of over 50,000 jobs each year in the modern sector, to be absorbed by the peasant sector or the informal sector."

Setting aside the issue of what sort of education should be provided, the Government also faces a more immediate problem: the shortage of skilled manpower. Reliable figures are hard to come by, and the Government has embarked on a National Manpower Survey which will give a clearer picture.

One-off boom expansion of the economy after independence inevitably placed skills at a premium but provides no guide for long-term needs. The shift

of whites from the public to private sector has also distorted the picture, while at the same time there are undoubtedly blacks performing skilled work but without recognition either in terms of pay or status.

Nevertheless, such figures that are available are worrying. At the start of this year 40 per cent of the 2,452 skilled posts in the public service were unfilled. The Central Mechanical and Equipment Department, for example, had 130 vacancies for artisans in an establishment of 345 posts.

Occupations most severely hit include accountancy, engineering, medical, scientific, agricultural research and extension, veterinary, mechanics and a range of artisan occupations including fitters, turners and boiler-makers.

The Government refuses to respond to these shortages with an open-door immigration policy, partly because officials are far from satisfied that employers are doing enough to train their black staff or use existing skills to best effect. And there is also a distaste for the prospect of "buying" such skills on terms sought by expatriates, such as the right to remit a proportion of local earnings.

The Government's economic policy statement, issued in February this year, "Growth with Equity," acknowledges that, in the short-term, external recruiting may be necessary. "Nevertheless," it goes on, "Government is fundamentally opposed to any system of external recruitment based on expatriate conditions."

So far, Government has been able to maintain this policy, bringing in some 200 teachers, for example, on local conditions, as well as railwaymen from India and Pakistan. Whether the policy can be maintained remains to be seen. In the past, Zimbabwe was able to manage without expatriates because immigrants for the most part identified with the white community and were readily assimilated.

Of course the Government may now be able to find immigrants equally ready to identify with an independent black administration and be quite prepared to accept local terms at the end of their contract. The policy has heavily depended on links between the white community and friends and relatives abroad. Today the morale of Zimbabwe's 200,000 whites is uncertain and they are less likely to advise those same friends and relatives to come and "settle."

On the trade union front, some of the divisions of the past have been papered at least, and though the movement remains generally ineffectual, Black unions, which had divided into two camps, came together in February this year to form the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), whose general secretary, Mr Albert Mugabe, happens to be the brother of the Prime Minister.

As Mr Mugabe himself readily acknowledges, ZCTU faces considerable difficulties: a shortage of trained officials, inadequate membership and a tiny proportion of paid-up members in relation to the workforce.

The country's registered unions have a membership of only 80,000, and even if paid-up members of unregistered unions are taken into account, under 20 per cent of the 1m workforce is unionised.

They operate under a system which Government accepts is highly unsatisfactory—industrial councils, for example, cover only 16 per cent of all employees. For the rest, points out the Riddell Commission, there is no system of collective bargaining. Another problem is that more than one union can be represented in an industry—thus there are four railway unions.

In an effort to fill the gap in labour relations, Government has encouraged the establishment of workers' committees and works councils—more accepted by the ZCTU. But it is unclear as to what real authority such liaison groups will have, or how they will eventually fit in to the labour movement.

Meanwhile, the Government has drafted a National Labour Relations Act to replace the Industrial Conciliation Act, and discussions on the draft are currently taking place with unions and employer organisations.

Rapid post-war recovery not without problems

CONSIDERING that memories of a savage civil war are still recent, and that tourists still clear of countries they associate with instability and violence, the recovery of Zimbabwe's tourist industry over the past 18 months has been remarkable.

With security now assured throughout the country, there ought to be no difficulty in building on this achievement. But here in so many sectors, Zimbabwe's progress will be affected crucially by the relationship with South Africa.

Zimbabwe is extraordinarily beautiful; the climate is excellent, the locals are friendly, ungrasping and English-speaking. The infrastructure is considerably better than elsewhere in Black Africa. It is, by and large, a clean, well-tended efficient country, which contains one of the wonders of the world (the Victoria Falls), one of the finest historical sites (Zimbabwe Ruins), a selection of excellent and well-run game parks, and a kopje-strewn landscape that ranges from forested mountain to semi-arid bush. Its only weakness, in comparison with countries like Kenya and South Africa is that it has no coast: Lake Kariba tries hard but cannot beat the Indian Ocean.

The statistics show the speed of post-war recovery. In 1979 visitors totalled a mere 79,000; in 1980 they soared to 273,000, reflecting a "curiosity" factor on the part of both businessmen and tourists (holiday-makers always account for over 80 per cent of arrivals). While this curiosity is waning, the Tourist Board's projection for 1981 is 357,000 visitors, contributing Z\$400m foreign exchange. It is estimated that by 1986 the figure will have exceeded the 1979 record of 405,000, and be topping 500,000.

Some industry sources wonder whether this should not be set as a ceiling. They ask whether Zimbabwe can or should try to cope with more than 500,000 visitors without risk to the habitat... such as driving away the wild life, or spoiling the Zambesi rain forest.

The hoteliers are unimpressed by such anxieties. They are more concerned to see the final figures for 1981, because they realise that last year's surge was a freak which has made it difficult to judge the speed with which new hotels and lodges

divided into two main markets—the South African and the international—and there are problems affecting both.

The South Africans traditionally have been the most important group of visitors. In January-May this year they accounted for 36,450—very nearly double the total from Western Europe—out of a "departing visitors" figure of 118,000. From June 1, however, as a result of deteriorating relations between the two governments, South Africans have required a visa to enter Zimbabwe.

Even if the bureaucracy can be speeded up (visas have been taking over three weeks) this is likely to act as a deterrent to the more spontaneous type of business or holiday visitor. Dr Shumayira admits that it will cut down the flow from the south "a great deal," although he emphasises that it applies only to South African passport holders.

South Africa is also relevant to the longer-term planning. Because Zimbabwe does not have sea, European or American tourists tend to include a few days in Zimbabwe only as one of a number of destinations on their ticket. The tension between Salisbury and Pretoria now makes it sensible for Zimbabwe to try to create an "independent Black circuit" in which the tourist can find all he wants of Africa without needing to go south.

Attention is now being paid to co-operation between the Central African states and even with Kenya. One plan envisages an Organisation of African Travel Services, while Zimbabwe Sun Hotels, according to its managing director, Mr Colin Walker, is considering an arrangement linking Mozambique with Zimbabwe, which would give the tourist the

are needed. There were fears last year that Salisbury had become a bottleneck, so there are plans for at least three major new hotels, although only one, a Holiday Inn, is definite.

Curiously, Salisbury, although it has excellent and well-known hotels such as Melkies, has none with five-star status or large conference facilities. Two of the projects, propose to fill these gaps. There has been no shortage of interest on the part of international hoteliers—Mr Ian Dixon, deputy Director of tourism, talks of "an unending caravan of hotel people from all over the world." The minister responsible for tourism, Dr Nathan Shamuyirira, confirmed to the *Financial Times* that a Tourist Development Corporation would be set up before the end of the year and spoke of the government's interest in taking a 40 per cent participation in suitable projects.

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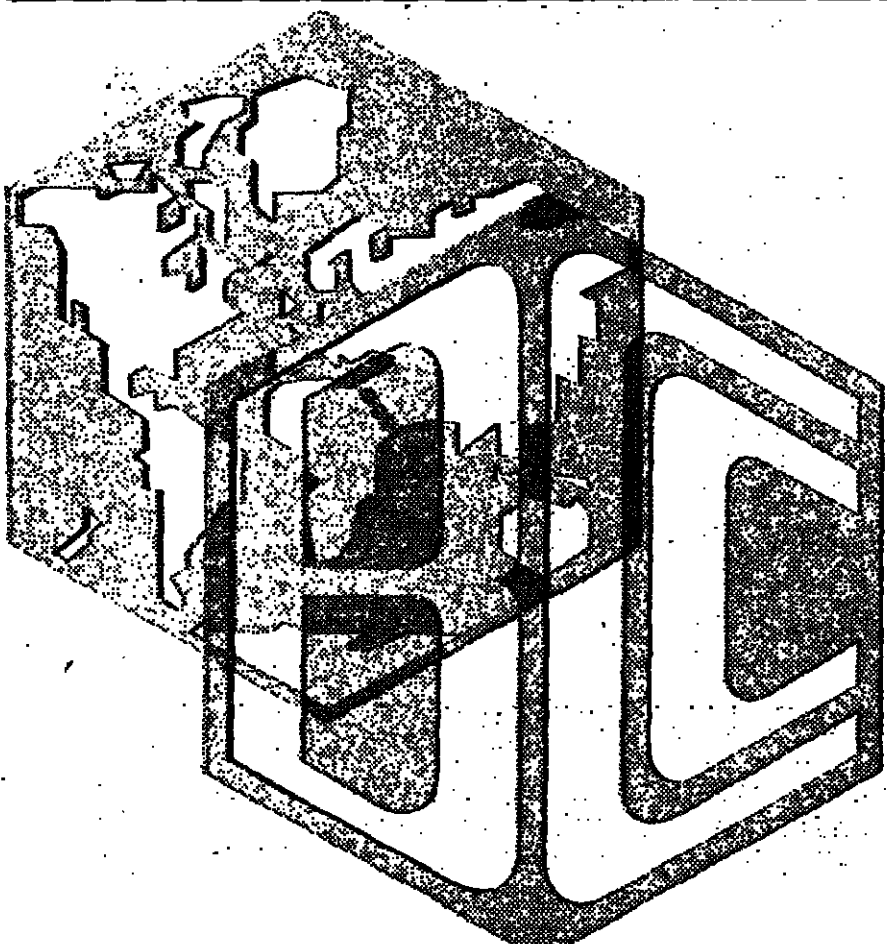
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WORLD OIL DEMAND

The battle is not over

By Ray Dafter, Energy Editor

Lombard

A new approach to EEC associates

By John Wyles in Brussels

A SURPRISING reception awaits visitors to the International Energy Agency's nondescript headquarters in Paris.

For a start, it is not easy to get in. The security arrangements could have been modelled on those of Fort Knox — a precaution introduced largely on the insistence of oil companies which have deposited their precious trading data and forecasts with the secretariat.

And the serious, at times puzzled, expressions on the faces of the agency's multinational staff do not seem right at a time of an oil glut, when the world appears to have brought the energy supply and demand balance so much under control. Shouldn't they be celebrating?

In truth the IEA — set up by the main industrial countries to counter the growing influence of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) — is in no mood to kick sand in the faces of oil exporters. Agency analysts are worried that the indicators, however favourable, may obscure longer-term problems.

DR SUBROTO
"one-time shift"

Opec production at low ebb

From the major energy consumers' point of view, the short-term trend is encouraging. Energy use within member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) fell by 3.2 per cent in 1980, as against the previous year, and by a further 2.3-3.0 per cent so far this year. The drop in OECD oil demand has been even more dramatic: down 8 per cent in 1980 and a further 6 to 7 per cent this year.

Opec oil production, estimated to be about 20.5m barrels a day (almost half of installed capacity and about two-thirds of the current availability) is at the lowest level on an annual basis since 1968. And major oil companies are so relaxed about the availability of supplies during the coming months that they have already begun to run down their high stocks kept in reserve for raised winter demand.

The problem facing analysts within the agency—and within

Opec for that matter—is that no-one has yet been able to untangle the various factors that have led to such a marked swing in energy balances.

Reduced demand for energy, particularly for crude oil, has been caused by a combination of the slump in worldwide economic activity, consumer resistance to higher prices, the switch by users from one fuel to another, and the deliberate introduction of conservation measures.

Dr. Subroto, president of Opec, recently warned about reading too much into the savings caused by "one-off" events. Addressing the prestigious Oxford Energy Seminar, Dr. Subroto referred to last year's drop in U.S. petrol demand which, he said, accounted for about 400,000 barrels a day of the decline in world oil consumption.

"Enhanced fuel efficiency and conservation are essential to the orderly and secure evolution of our oil and energy future," Dr. Subroto said. "But it can be misleading to jump too rapidly from aggregate data to general conclusions."

On the face of it, energy savings of about 25 per cent have been achieved in the past seven years or so. This superficial view arises from a com-

parison of current energy demand with consumption levels projected in the early 1970s.

In 1973, for instance, Exxon forecast that by 1985 energy demand would be running at the equivalent of over 125m barrels a day of crude oil. It further projected that by 1985 energy demand would have risen to 162m b/d of oil equivalent (b/doe). The forecast looked reasonable at the time, given that energy growth rates in the early 1970s had been running at 3.4 to 3.5 per cent annually. In the event it seems unlikely that demand this year will rise above 95m b/doe. And according to the latest energy report of Bankers Trust Company, 1985 demand could still be only 108.5m b/doe—an apparent drop of 34 per cent from the level originally expected by Exxon.

A more accurate measure of fundamental changes in energy balances can be obtained from comparing demand with the economy as a whole. Here it has been found that energy per unit of Gross Domestic Product in IEA member countries declined by almost 13 per cent between 1973 and 1980. Over the same period oil use dropped by about 20 per cent when assessed on a comparable basis.

HOW ENERGY BALANCES WILL CHANGE

(Reference case for IEA countries; in tonnes of oil equivalent)

	1979	1990	2000
Total primary energy	2,612	4,236	5,100
Non-oil energy consumption	1,794	2,466	3,780
Oil consumption	1,818	1,570	1,320
of which net oil imports	1,306	974	736
Domestic energy production	2,486	3,142	4,205
Coal	727	1,100	1,770
Oil	707	678	680
Gas	495	713	750
Nuclear	232	336	555
Hydro	232	285	350
Net non-oil imports	11	40	40
Coal	30	142	215
Gas	30	142	215
Total final consumption	2,617	2,918	3,369
Industry (inc. non-energy use)	1,040	1,270	1,667
Transport	737	709	690
Residential/commercial	840	939	1,022
Net oil imports (m barrels/day)	24.5	19.8	14.8
Oil consumption as % of total energy	50.3	37.1	25.9

Source: IEA Secretariat estimates

DR ULF LANTZKE
"expect the unexpected"

Mr. Fred Gorbet, director of the agency's Office of Long-Term Cooperation and Policy Analysis, said the changes indicated a general improvement in the efficient use of energy—particularly among oil consumers. There had also been a significant substitution of other fuels for oil.

There remains considerable potential for further savings through more conservation. IEA member countries project that in the 1979-80 period, energy use per unit of GDP could decline by a further 14 per cent.

The IEA has already called for stronger conservation action from many of its members, including Britain where Mrs. Thatcher's Government has adopted a policy of market force encouragement (through high energy prices) and information and has largely eschewed fiscal incentives like grants and loans. "There must be a contribution from both market forces and public policy measures," says the IEA, a view shared by the newly created Association for the Conservation of Energy.

The association, based in London, was set up largely because manufacturers of conservation equipment were concerned about the willingness of British conservation policies.

Experience of the mid-1970s has shown that conservation loses much of its appeal when oil prices are falling in real terms—as is present. In its energy analysis Bankers Trust sees little prospect of oil prices rising much above the general inflation rate before 1985. The forecast is based on an assumption that demand for Opec oil will remain well below the organisation's production capacity at least until the mid-1980s and possibly through to the 1990s.

Paradoxically, the demand for Opec oil—and the organisation's pricing expectations—will be greatly influenced by the IEA's success in encouraging a switch from oil to other fuels. Ever since the agency was formed, in response to the 1973 energy crisis, it has striven to encourage member countries to lessen their dependence on imported oil, and Opec's oil in particular.

The campaign seems to be working. IEA member countries—essentially all of the developed nations with the exception of France—relied on net oil imports to meet about 35 per cent of their total energy needs in 1973. The proportion is now less than one-third. The agency secretariat believes that oil imports could be meeting just

25.6 per cent of the IEA's energy demand in 1985, 23 per cent in 1990, and only 14 per cent at the turn of the century.

It is IEA's hope that by the end of the century oil will have been virtually eliminated from electricity generation. (It now accounts for almost one-fifth of the fuel used in power plants.) Manufacturing industry is expected to become more efficient in its overall use of energy and substitute coal for much of its oil requirements. But still agency staff remain troubled by nagging doubts. They are concerned that in the current climate of oil glut, economic recession and low growth expectations the drive to provide more alternatives to imported crude oil will be hindered.

President Reagan's announcement last week that the U.S. Energy Department is to be abolished is a further sign that leading industrialised countries have become more relaxed about supplies, more confident that market forces will lead to the development of fuels to replace imported oil. But the battle is far from won.

Tall order for nuclear power

The IEA is working on the assumption that nuclear power output will grow by 170 per cent in the next decade and by a further 65 per cent in the 1990s. The use of coal is expected to grow by 150 per cent and account for 35 per cent of total IEA energy use by the end of the century, compared with about one fifth today. These are tall orders.

But what is still not known is whether the progress is real or phoney. Analysts say they will be able to judge structural changes in energy balances reasonably accurately only when the world's economic growth is revived. Even then the picture may not be clear. For as Dr. Ulf Lantzke, executive director of IEA, concludes: "If there is one major lesson to be drawn from the 1970s, it is that we must continue to expect the unexpected."

Energy Policies and Programmes of IEA Countries, 1980 Review, July 1, 1981. International Energy Agency, OECD Publications, 2 rue Andre-Pascal, 75737 Paris Cedex 12.

It is eccentric and short-sighted of the EEC to be launched on the most thorough review and reform of policies since its creation without reconsidering the policy commitment which poses the greatest single obstacle to its future development—enlargement.

The Ten recognise that the accession of Spain and Portugal poses very severe agricultural and industrial problems. Yet they have felt powerless to confront the desire of both the Portuguese and Spanish governments to consolidate their youthful and fragile democracies through membership. Moreover, such is the Community's strength as an economic and trading entity and such is the potential development of its foreign policy co-ordination that its attractions are bound to be magnetic not only for Spain and Portugal, but also, perhaps, for Cyprus and Turkey.

Now surely is the time for the Ten to recognise that there are limits to the economic and political diversity which can be accommodated within a structure aiming for close integration and harmonious development on everything from insurance services to monetary policies.

The costs of the present "open door" policy on enlargement could well be growing internal disharmony and political immobility. What is needed is a re-examination and re-definition of the concept of "association" by which applicant countries are meant to prepare themselves for eventual membership. Greece had such an agreement, Turkey, Cyprus and Malta have one, Spain and Portugal do not.

The weakness of such agreements has been that they have failed to confer special status on the "associate" countries. Increasingly, they have found the Community's readiness to make trade concessions either grudging or non-existent while its interest in ensuring that a country is making correct internal preparatory moves towards membership is extremely vague and intermittent.

Instead of negotiating membership with Spain and Portugal, the Community ought to be offering these countries a genuinely different status as associate members. It ought to negotiate an agreement on a detailed programme of economic development and harmonisation of tariffs which would offer real prospect of a gradual and flexible adaptation to the rigours of full membership.

Politically, the Community should acknowledge the "associate" country's desire to be involved in foreign policy and external trade matters by setting up systematic consultation and information sharing designed to achieve the closest possible identity of views.

The "associate" countries might object that they would be excluded from participating in the development of internal Community policies affecting their interests. A new system of consultation would aim to take their views into account, but point of "associate" status is that it would acknowledge that these countries are by definition unready to share in new developments and should not be in a position, therefore, to block them.

Other reasons why the Community ought, at the very least, to review alternatives to enlargement include the fact that it may well be forced to do so by political changes in at least two member-countries, Greece and the UK.

If Pasok wins next month's general election in Greece, it could well seek to change the terms of Greek membership so as to acknowledge the fact that its particular economic and industrial requirements are rather different from any other member-state's. By the same token, a Labour Government in the UK would be quite likely to seek a new relationship with the Community based on severing some membership links and the preservation of others. In both cases there could be advantages in the Community being able to offer a flexible response.

Letters to the Editor

Millionaire farmers—no need for depression

From Mr A. Sutherland.
Sir—Mr G. W. Gardiner (September 23) is again fertile with misconceptions.

It is not the case that any farmer needs to borrow money at interest of 15.5 per cent from the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation in order to finance his bill for capital transfer tax. Throughout the existence of CTT the Inland Revenue has been compelled to finance him, and at zero interest—for he is entitled to pay the tax by eight annual instalments and the Revenue must charge him nothing for that privilege.

As I said in March, that concession, assuming a discount rate of only 10 per cent—and not 15.5 per cent—and an inflation rate as low as 10 per cent reduces the farmer's already especially low tax bill by half. The Budget was especially kind to the very rich, because the previous "ceiling" for the interest-free privilege—£4m of tax base i.e. £1m for a family farm—was entirely abolished.

It is not the case that "hence-

forward" the double discount system has been stopped. Those farmers who have already formed the right kind of partnership will continue to be able to value their land at both 40 per cent off because it is tenanted—by themselves—plus a further 50 per cent off because they are also working farmers. That is so for the first transfer after the Budget—which may be any time in the next 30 years. Such farmers indeed do better than before the Budget, because now they too—like all other agricultural landlords—have been given access to the interest-free instalment privilege, with no ceiling.

Those farmers who have been too slow to take tax advice will continue to enjoy "only" the privilege of 50 per cent off the valuation, and payment by interest-free instalments, plus the standard effect of splitting ownership with a spouse, and the great reductions given to everybody in the Budget by the ending of lifetime cumulation, and the lowered rates for lifetime transfers.

Consequently it is not the case that my earlier estimate of the tax liability on the transfer of a farm worth £4m—which in any event is not a typical farm, since it is some nine times the average farm size—"seems to be optimistic." On a transfer at death, with only one decade's worth of tax-free transfer, the tax rate is indeed 12 per cent—and not the 17 per cent (£685,000), plus annual interest of £113,000 for 20 years, invented by Mr. Gardiner. If the farm enjoys the double discount, then the tax rate drops to 5 per cent. For a transfer during life—also with interest-free instalment privileges for farmers—the tax rate would be even lower, because of the large reductions made by the Budget in the top rates of lifetime tax.

Any "depression" about the maltreatment of millionaire farmers is quite without foundation. The Budget did indeed reduce their minimal CTT burdens even further. Alistair Sheridan, Trinity College, Cambridge.

Work sharing should become a reality

From Dr D. Cole

Sir—Currently, Britain enjoys the fruits of the first Industrial Revolution, it also lives with the many scars deriving from that same period. We now need to face up to the arrival of the microprocessor, which will bring with it an end to full employment as we understand it today. We may need to contend not with 3m people unemployed but perhaps many, many more.

I would suggest that work sharing become a reality rather than just an idea. In concrete terms we could commence by reducing the working week. For example a factory working a normal five day week would continue to operate for five days, but the employees would work for four and a half days. A suitable rota system would need to be instituted which would need an increase of 10 per cent in numbers employed for output to be maintained. Operated on a national scale, this would mean a reduction in national unemployment from 12 per cent to 3.7 per cent. Wage and salary levels would be maintained, thereby increasing labour costs to the tune of 10 per cent.

For those companies who comply, reduced levels of national insurance contributions payable by the company would be invoked for a limited period of (say) three years—the level would be designed to make it attractive for companies to comply, making legislation unnecessary. Individual companies will not lose financially, although they will have to face the difficulty of instituting working rota systems; more significantly their products will remain as competitive as at present in the world market.

Without question the Government will lose income. If can, however, be calculated that half the loss is immediately counterbalanced by the saving of £80m currently expended on unemployment benefit. Hidden benefits will accrue. With no longer be the need to shore up ailing industries like British Steel Corporation and British Leyland which between them consume a further £40m.

It will not be an easy decision for the Government to implement this idea. In the first place it would need to have the blessing of the CBI and the TUC. I believe it is a suggestion which can be moulded into a viable system. (Dr) D. Cole, Silveston, 10, Rye, Purton, Bridgwater, Somerset.

Credit cards mean less cash for the thief

From Mr J. Lean.
Sir—I have been reading (September 21) these parts of your supplement on "UK Banking" which deal with credit cards with considerable interest.

When Barclaycard and, later, Access credit cards were introduced, this was a relief as we had only the need to carry quite small sums of cash around for those immediate day-to-day necessities which demand cash payment. Even today, £5 is a large sum in my wallet.

Quite frankly, we see no need for any of the "in-store" credit cards, since they would tend to tie one to that store for its particular line of goods.

The Monopolies Commission's suggestion that credit card sales should be charged at a higher rate will tend to make some people revert to carrying large amounts of cash on their persons and thus become muggers' targets.

The suggestion is also anathema to us on the implication that the supplement is necessary to pay the commission levied by the credit card companies. Surely, if the retailer has less cash in his shop, he is less likely to be the object of theft. I suggest that the money saved on reduced insurance premiums should be enough to offset most, if not all, the credit card commission.

I wonder what the large in-

surance companies had to say to the Monopolies Commission on this aspect of their business? Their comments would be most interesting as no discussion seems to have been reported so far.

J. L. Lean, 75a, Studley Grange Road, W7.

Scots' feelings roused by bank bid

From Mr C. McAllister

Sir—Dr Scotney (September 25) perhaps does not recognise a rhetorical question when he sees one.

Of course the Royal Bank of Scotland belongs to its shareholders. These may or may not—I do not know—involve a majority of Scots or Scottish institutions, but in take-over bids of this importance the private interest is not the only one to be considered, which is why we have a Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Dr Scotney is misinformed if he thinks the Bank of England has neither issued share capital nor private nor institutional shareholders. If he would care to consult the Bank Return for September 23, printed in the same issue of the Financial Times as his letter, he will find that the Bank of England has capital of £14,533,000, which

Some exporters think Bank of America only handles U.S.-based trade



So how can we help float a bulk carrier to the Philippines from the Wear?

Austin and Pickersgill have just launched a B26 bulk carrier for the Philippines. Bank of America set up 80% of the finance—12 million dollars. Don't let the dollars mislead you—the package was initiated by Bank of America in London. People from our branches in both London and Hong Kong provided the expertise that made the arrangement possible.

For other British exporters, we have arranged transactions where our Trade Finance and Letters of Credit people initiated a complete financial package. We have a very experienced EEC team. We arrange documentary collections in many countries where we have a local presence. We can help with every

aspect of foreign exchange—from advice to actual cover.

For every transaction, we have the resources and the presence necessary to deliver—from London. And so we should have. This year we celebrate 50 years in the City. We are also represented in Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh. Individual account officers will service your company's specific needs. They're backed by a team of specialists that makes us the Number One American bank in the U.K.

Next time you think of trade finance, think of us. And our team.

BANK OF AMERICA
Think what we can do for you.

For trade finance, contact Michael Hall, Bank of America, 23 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4HN. Tel: 01-236 2010.



UK COMPANY NEWS

Lesney reduces halftime loss as demand expands

ECONOMIES and rationalisation enabled Lesney Products and Co., the toy manufacturer, to reduce the mid-term loss despite sharply lower sales. The pre-tax deficit was down from £5.94m to £3.97m after interest costs of £2.49m, against £3.57m, for the 24 weeks to July 12 1981. Again there is no interim dividend.

Sales fell £12.45m to £26.23m, reducing particularly the sale of Metal Castings (Worcester) and elimination of unprofitable products.

Also heavy demand on the group's factories created a short-fall of output leading to substantially higher than normal unfilled orders. "If these had been despatched within the period we would have been ahead of mid-year target," says Mr Gordon Hay the chairman.

During the half-year there was a steady improvement in the rate of sales and to meet the expanding order book production facilities are now being worked at an increasingly higher level of efficiency than over the last two years.

Also a change in the pattern of ordering by customers, as they seek to minimise stocks by

postponing orders into the second half, should raise the proportion falling in the second half.

"Therefore a satisfactory balance of our supply and demand will enable us to be on course at the year end," the chairman adds.

The attributable loss for the 24 weeks ended at £4.43m (£3.65m) after tax of £233,000 (£32,000) and extraordinary debits of £323,000 (£667,000) relating mainly to sale value of properties held for realisation.

Net losses per 5p share was 12.43p (18.09p) and at halftime net assets per share amounted to 56.4p (55.3p).

Preference dividend cost £18,000 (same).

For the whole of the year to January 25 1981 the group loss before tax was £10.96m on sales of £90m, and no distribution was made.

Surplus property has been sold since mid-year for a surplus of £1.3m. Working capital and borrowings continue to be tightly controlled above target.

"Indeed stocks within the past have risen substantially in the summer months, whereas we

have contained them to a level only 10 per cent above the year end, most of this accounted for by inflation," Mr Hay points out.

At mid-year borrowings were down from £44.38m to £33.66m and shareholders funds stood at £19.07m, against £33.76m. Stocks were down from £37.86m to £21.31m.

● comment

Lesney has completed its major rationalisations, and is now working on improving the operations of the remaining group. Orders here are running about 10 per cent higher than this time last year; in fact the group has missed some sales in the first half by under-estimating demand. So far the cancellations apparently experienced by some of its competitors, and the second half loss may be contained at less than £1m. But debt is still uncomfortably high, at 175 per cent of shareholders funds, and the group is reporting regularly to its bankers. The shares fell 2p yesterday to 13p, capitalising the company at a fifth of net assets.

The company is engaged mainly in the manufacture and sale of electronic components and systems.

Forecast confirmed by CEI

LOWER pre-tax profits are reported by Cambridge Electronic Industries from £3.12m to £2.62m, and the directors confirmed pre-tax profits for the year will be not less than the £5m indicated in the June prospectus. The first interim dividend is 1.25p.

Turnover is running below the levels of 1980, largely because of a fall in orders in the last quarter of the year. This mainly affected the electronic and electrical components section of the business.

The outlook for the second half of the year, say the directors, is for no significant change, and they expect the group sales for the full year to show a small overall decline.

Earnings per 25p share are up at 5.2p against 4.5p, because provisions for stock relief lowered tax from £1.4m to £850,000.

Turnover slipped back from £43.3m to £39m. Interest received was £158,000 (nil) and interest payable was well down at £25,000 (£441,000).

On a profit of £113,000 (£108,000), leaving attributable earnings slightly higher at £1.85m (£1.61m).

Current cost figures show pre-tax profits lower at £1.82m (£1.52m).

The company is engaged

Brent Chemicals interim expansion to £1.82m

Helped by lower interest charges, down from £37,000 to £22,000, profits of Brent Chemicals International for the first half of 1981 increased to £1.52m, against £1.51m, at the pre-tax level, on turnover well ahead from £16.59m to £23.48m.

Mr W. W. Cross, chairman of this industrial chemicals manufacturer, says that directors continue to expand steadily, but in the present uncertain economic conditions he says it is difficult to foresee any significant increase in earnings from the UK sector.

Stated first-half earnings per 10p share are 3p (2.6p) and the interim dividend is effectively lifted to 0.6p (0.5p) net—last year's adjusted final was 1.5p paid from pre-tax profits of £2.52m.

Reorganisation of Brent Chemicals Corporation proceeded to plan and good progress was made by the underlying business during this period. The company made a small contribution to earnings and the chairman says the benefits of chemical systems division acquisition, from Stauffer Chemical Company in February, will be felt increasingly over the next few years.

He adds that most other overseas operating companies producing satisfactory profits and are producing satisfactory profits.

Mr Cross says that in the UK, business volume was generally retained, without erosion of operating profit margins, but there are, as yet, no indications of a significant upturn in demand.

Galliford edges ahead to £3.32m

TAXABLE PROFITS of Galliford Brindley finished the year to end-June 1981 at £3.32m, compared with £3.16m, after rising marginally at mid-year from £1.29m to £1.38m. Turnover improved over the year by £3.15m to £65.27m.

A final dividend of 3.57p (3.5p) increases the net total from 4.625p to 5p per 5p share. A one-for-one scrip issue is also proposed.

Tax took £1.17m (same).

On a CCA basis the pre-tax figure is reduced to £2.15m (£2.18m).

Sound results from the civil engineering, private housing and property development sectors offset losses by the general plant, hire and engineering activities. The current year's performance, with the construction companies "enjoying good weather conditions" but the weakness of most of the markets in which the group operates precludes any reliable forecasts. However, they say that past experience and a general view of the situation would suggest "another satisfactory result is possible."

DoT clears County & District

The Department of Trade has completed its investigations into possible insider dealing in the shares of County and District Properties and has found no evidence that any offence has been committed.

The DoT inquiry into share dealing in the equities of County and District, now a part of Costain, arose from information provided by the stock exchange, which systematically examines unusual movements in share prices.

The DoT stressed that such information does not necessarily indicate the existence of criminal activity. "This can only be ascertained through a full examination of the facts," said the DoT yesterday.

It was last December that the inquiry into share dealing of County and District's equities by the DoT became known. The stock exchange passed a list of five companies whose share price movements had attracted attention to the DoT for further investigation.

NIPPON FUND

Holders of 111m shares of Nippon Fund (90.43 per cent) have accepted the offer from Nippon Fund to exchange their shares for units in the Nippon Fund. The basis of allotment will be announced in due course but is expected to be 3.1 Nippon Fund units for every 10 Nippon Fund Sterling shares.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 3EB Telephone 01-421 1212

1980-81	Company	Price	Change	Gross	Yield	Fully
High	Low	div.(p)	%	div.(p)	%	Actual
114	100	AB1 Hides 10pc CULS	110	-2	10.1	15.2
76	39	Armstrong and Rhodes	44	-	4.3	8.3
21	21	Armitage and Rhodes	180	-2	9.7	5.1
200	224	Bardon Hill	87d	-3	6.4	5.3
104	88	Deborah Services	110	-	6.4	5.3
88	88	East Norwell	60	-	1.7	2.6
110	39	Frederick Parker	55	-1	7.2	7.1
110	55	George Blair	109	-	7.0	6.9
102	93	IPC	113	-4	7.7	8.2
110	98	Jackson Group	230	-5	31.3	11.0
130	103	James Burrough	58	-	5.3	5.4
334	244	Robert Jenkins	11	-	15.1	8.1
99	90	Scruttons "A"	75	-	15.0	20.0
22	187	Twinlock Ord	36	-	3.0	6.3
80	68	Twinlock 15pc ULS	28	-	4.4	4.4
56	35	Unilock Holdings	228	-2	13.1	5.7
103	81	Walter Alexander				
288	181	W. S. Yeates				

† Suspended.

THE TRING HALL USM INDEX

100.0 (-5.4)

at close of business 26/9/81

BASE DATE 10/11/80 100.

Tel: 01-248 5675.

OIL INDEX

December Refined \$42.40.

January Refined \$42.85.

CORAL INDEX

Close 458-463 (-10)

Solicitors' Law near to sale

DEPRESSED half-year pre-tax profits are shown by the Solicitors' Law Stationery Society for the period ending June 30 1981 and negotiations have reached an advanced stage for the sale of the group's book and periodical publishing interests.

Pre-tax profits slipped from £70,203 to £83,487—last year's figure was after an associated company loss of £190,078.

Sir Edward Singleton, the chairman, is negotiating the disposal of the book and periodical publishing interests, which will require shareholders' approval, to improve the balance sheet.

The group has contained borrowings within the existing facilities, says Sir Edward, but trading conditions have not enabled the company to significantly reduce borrowings. The sale would improve net assets and eliminate the exceptional loss at half year.

The group announced it was open to offers for the book and periodical publishing interests in July. It received eight offers for the subsidiary and contracts are expected to be signed before the end of October. The sale price was described as "substantial".

Turnover was slightly down at £11.39m (£11.49m). There was

no tax charge (£115,634). Extraordinary debits totalled £311,629 (£271,444), which included a loss of £213,577 on the sale of the controlling interest in a subsidiary, £91,378 redundancy costs and £6,674 for exchange adjustments.

Trading losses of £164,000 were made at Bradley and Son and C. E. Dawkins (Type-setters). The group has sold its holding of 50 per cent of shares in Bradley and further rationalisation will take effect at Dawkins by the end of October. Oyez Services was badly hit by the Civil Service strike. Oyez Computers improved considerably as previous investment begins to pay off. Oyez Stationery remained in profit.

● comment

The corner has been turned at Solicitors' Law. Compared with a second half 1980 loss of £700,000, the company has bounced back with a first half profit of £63,487, now that the loss-making associate is out of the way. This was after allowing for large losses at the Dawkins printing subsidiary where further rationalisation should ensure profitable trading by the end of October. Elsewhere the group's printing division has performed well and the group is investing

heavily here. The computers side has contributed a profit for the first time and the group expects substantial benefits from this business in the future. The stationery division has not shown much growth but with a large turnover any small improvement in productivity would quickly show through in profits. For the full year the group expects a repeat of the first half performance. Borrowings remain high at around £2.8m, roughly equal to shareholders' funds, but if the plan to sell the publishing interests is successful debt will be reduced substantially. The shares remained at 25p yesterday in a tight market. Mr Robert Maxwell confirmed that his 23 per cent stake is an "investment," and International Thomson's 50.1 per cent is not for sale.

LANCA INCREASE

HANDBAG MANUFACTURER Lancia boosted pre-tax profits to £59,584 in the half-year to June 30, against £50,847. Turnover increased to £1,04m, compared with £944,560.

Tax took £46,700 (£26,500) after which earnings per 20p share were given as 3.93p (3.03p).



AURORA

HALF YEAR REPORT

	First half 1981	First half 1980	Full year 1980
	£000	£000	£000
Sales	58,778	74,893	136,383
Trading profit	2,299	5,358	8,084
Profit before taxation	(221)	2,056	1,829
Profit after taxation	(974)	1,411	1,294
Retained earnings	(720)	16	(1,424)
Earnings per share	(6.19p)	4.98p	2.64p

The Chairman, Mr Robert Atkinson reports

Results

The Group recorded a loss before tax for the half-year ended 30th June, 1981, of £221,000, compared with a profit of £2,056m during the corresponding period in 1980. This result is extremely disappointing and is attributable to the continuing low level of industrial activity in the U.K. in general and the special steel sector in particular.

Aurora Steels

Aurora Steels' losses are running at the rate of £3.5m per annum, despite capacity reduction and considerable cost-cutting. Demand remains at a low ebb and subsidised imports of foreign steel continue to flood the U.K. market. Following the Warner Report, your Board has concluded that Government support will not be forthcoming for the private steel sector, either by way of assistance in restructuring or by acting against unfair foreign competition. Consequently it has been decided to initiate a phased reduction of the steel-making activities at Ecclesfield in Sheffield; where 390 are currently employed. Although Aurora's steel-making capacity will be halved, it will remain more than adequate for the foreseeable demand.

Dividends

The Group's reserves are substantial, but are mainly classified as capital and thus are not available for distribution as dividends. The above action will eventually involve a charge to reserves of approximately £6m, of which some £3.5m will be charged against revenue reserves, thus leaving a deficit in the revenue reserve account. In these circumstances the company is statutorily precluded from approving either an interim ordinary dividend or the payment of the dividends usually payable on 30th September in respect of the 3.85% Cumulative Preference Shares and the 5% Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares.

Bank Facilities

The Group's banking facilities, which have been recently confirmed by our Bankers, are more than adequate for our present requirements. Indeed the present level of Bank borrowings amounts to only 60% of available facilities.

Outlook

Order intake in the U.K. has remained at a constant level for the last three months, which lends some support to the view that the recession may have bottomed out. There are, however, no indications of recovery. Nevertheless, the actions we have taken should lead to a much-improved performance in 1982, given a reasonable degree of stability in the U.K. economy.

Aurora Holdings Limited Nether Lane Ecclesfield
Sheffield S30 3TR

Moran dives to £0.59m

POOR SECOND half trading and provisions sliced taxable profit of the troubled insurance broker and underwriting agency Christopher Moran Group from £1.85m to £390,000 for the year to January 31 1981. No dividend is to be paid for the year compared with a 4p net total for the preceding 12 months.

Trading was affected "by the various difficulties facing the group." Turnover from broking and other areas was down from £2.75m to £1.64m, but this decline was partly offset by a rise from £451,000 to £537,000 from underwriting management, for total turnover of £2.28m (£2.31m).

Provisions in respect of items including brokerage, took £425,000 and interest on unpaid disputed corporation tax absorbed £179,000.

Pre-tax profit from broking and other activities dived to £41,000 (£1.49m) but underwriting management improved to £549,000 (£363,000). Stated earnings per 20p share slid to 0.59p (£4.76p).

Attributable surplus slumped to £38,000 (£825,000) after tax of £3,000 (nil) and an extraordinary charge of £83,000.

No current costs statement has been prepared, the directors explain, for among other things, it would further delay presentation of the accounts.

Metalrax well down at midyear

ALTHOUGH PROFITS of Metalrax Group "were ahead of budget for the first quarter," largely due to steps taken last year, the pre-tax figure for the six months to June 30, 1981, shows a marked drop from £1.07m to £558,000.

Mr John Ward, the chairman, says he sees very few signs of the national improvement he had hoped might be beginning to show by now and, in the short term, any advance in the group's fortunes "must come from cost-cutting efforts."

However, in the absence of totally unforeseen circumstances he is confident that the actions taken by the directors will enable the group to return to its "traditional pattern of profitability," and that the second half will show a "significant improvement" over the first half.

He adds that although it cannot be seen from the figures announced, for the half year once again there had been a positive cash flow despite the payment of the final dividend and substantial tax liabilities.

The net interim dividend is being marginally increased from 0.745p after allowing for the one-for-ten scrip issue, to 0.75p—last year a total equivalent to 2.181p was paid.

Turnover of this engineering group for the half year was lower at £10.06m (£12.19m). Tax took £275,000 (£558,000) and the retained balance emerged at £86,000, against £347,000.

TR ENERGY

Initial figures of TR Energy show revenue before tax of £273,260 for the period August 22, 1980 to June 30, 1981. There was a tax charge of £131,334, leaving net revenue of £141,926. Stated earnings per 25p share are 0.99p. The directors recommend that there shall be no dividend.

Shareholders' interests

at June 30 were £21m. TR Energy was founded by Touche, Remnant, a UK investment management company which is wholly-owned by the investment trusts. The prime objective of the directors is to build up investments in oil and gas production and reserves directly and through other companies, partnerships or joint ventures.

I. & J. Hyman back in profit for first half

Compared with a second half loss of £121,743 last year, I. & J. Hyman, plastic foam converter and manufacturer, came back in the first half of 1981 with taxable profits of £159,101, although they were well down against £642,434 previously.

Turnover dropped from £11.89m to £9.8m and the interim dividend has been omitted (0.4136p). The directors say any final distribution will depend on the full year results and circumstances prevailing at the time—final for 1980 was 0.4136p paid from profits down from £1.82m to £520,691.

Mr Peter Buckley, chairman, says that the first half, the continuation of the quiet trading conditions of the previous year, and there is, as yet, no indication of any consistent or material improvement. He says that the full-year's profit will depend upon some re-emergence of the seasonal demand for many company products in the last few months of 1981.

The recent purchase of British Vita's interest in the

I. & J. Hyman back in profit for first half

Haiflock Group will afford more flexibility in effecting certain economies and pursuing the marketing of new products and technology, he states.

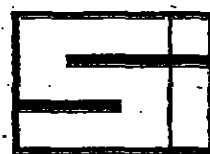
Above the line, depreciation took £115,860, against £273,370, the interest charge was up from £256,229 to £274,392, and associate's share was £5,895 (nil).

Tax charge was £102,723 compared with £338,016, and after a minorities' credit of £36,170 (£10,044), and an extraordinary debit of £49,992 (nil), the attributable profit came through at £42,556 (£314,462). Earnings per share are given as 0.44p (1.51p).

POLYMARK

Mr P. Neyer, chairman of Polymark International, told the annual meeting that the first half of 1981 would show a small loss.

However, there would be a significant improvement in the second half, although he did not expect profits for the whole year to reach those of 1980.



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Electric vehicles: still just around the corner

By John Griffiths

IN THE coming month some unusual variants of the Dodge 50 medium van and light truck will come rolling off the assembly lines at Dunstable. Beneath their bonnets will be not petrol or diesel engines, but an electric drive system developed by Chloride.

They will be the first fully traffic-compatible electric trucks and vans to be produced commercially for sale by a volume manufacturer in the UK. But the planned output level could hardly be called "volume"—20 a month.

Their purchase price will also, in effect, be subsidised by the Department of Industry to the tune of about £4,000 per vehicle.

For both companies the exercise represents a dipping of toes into unknown waters. For there can be few developing industries so clouded by conflicting views as to where technology might be headed, who is leading it, and the eventual size and nature of markets which might emerge to buy it.

For the best part of a century, the automotive holy grail embodied by a "superbattery" to challenge the dominance of the internal combustion engine has been sought along pathways haunted by empty echoes of eureka.

But the viable, roadgoing electric vehicle, with some very specific exceptions, has remained just round a seemingly endless series of corners. As far back as 1966, even Ford was proclaiming to the world its own breakthrough which would make the mass-produced "EV" feasible within five to ten years.

Ford has swallowed its words, at least in terms of the passenger car. It now says it concurs with the U.S. Department of Energy's view that in the absence of an unforeseen fuel crisis of near-cataclysmic proportions, "there is no competitive future for the electric car during this present century."

On the other hand, it believes that light commercial vehicles of less than two tonnes, used in stop-start urban delivery work where a range of 30-40 miles is often adequate for a daily workload, are increasingly likely to be electric-powered within the next decade. On that at least there is growing agreement.

In line with the Dodge/Chloride project, the main thrust of research and development in Britain and on the Continent is towards such vehicles.

Yet General Motors is concentrating its own EV development on the passenger car. As so often with electric, its



A selection of all-electric commercial vehicles used on Britain's roads: the main area of use to date.

original production target of 100,000 electric cars a year by 1984 slipped back first to 1985, and has now become a general statement that "an electric vehicle may well appear in the mid-1990s." But that the U.S.'s two largest auto-makers could hold such divergent views illustrates why EV development is so fragmented and has made relatively little headway.

The crux of the problem lies with the still-elusive "superbattery." Experiments have been proceeding with a great many couples (see chart). The two UK battery projects are tubular sodium-sulphur batteries being explored by Chloride, and Lucas's nickel-zinc unit (the latter the same couple planned by GM).

Chloride says its sodium-sulphur unit should be viable for use in commercial vehicles in five years or a little more. Gulf and Western, the U.S. group, proclaimed its own "major" breakthrough last year with a zinc-chloride unit claimed to give a range of up to 200 miles in a purpose-built car. But once again, those claims have yet to be confirmed and the battery appears to have hit fresh development snags.

It is because the superbattery has yet to materialise that a meeting this month of electric vehicle experts from several countries, organised by Britain's Electric Vehicle Development Group, was examining in particular a half-way stage:

the "hybrid." London Transport made available its testing grounds for the demonstration of a number of vans, cars and a public passenger vehicle, some using a British hybrid system being unveiled for the first time.

The hybrid is simple in concept, if not construction. An internal combustion engine, smaller than in a conventional car, runs constantly at its most efficient speed to charge a battery pack which actually drives the vehicle—the "series" hybrid. The "parallel" version's engine can help drive the vehicle when extra power is needed or charge the batteries when it is not.

The advantage of the systems are that the vehicles can travel well beyond the very restricted—at most 60 miles—range of a lead acid battery, yet use considerably less liquid fuel than a conventional vehicle.

A British company, Dragonfly Research, demonstrated a hybrid bus built for Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority, which is shortly to start testing it. It also showed its Nova sports car on which its hybrid concepts were first developed. Like a prototype Audi car also shown, developed jointly by General Electric Company of the U.S. and Volkswagen Audi—it is claimed to have at least a 70 per cent better liquid fuel consumption, with the potential for 100 mpg performance.

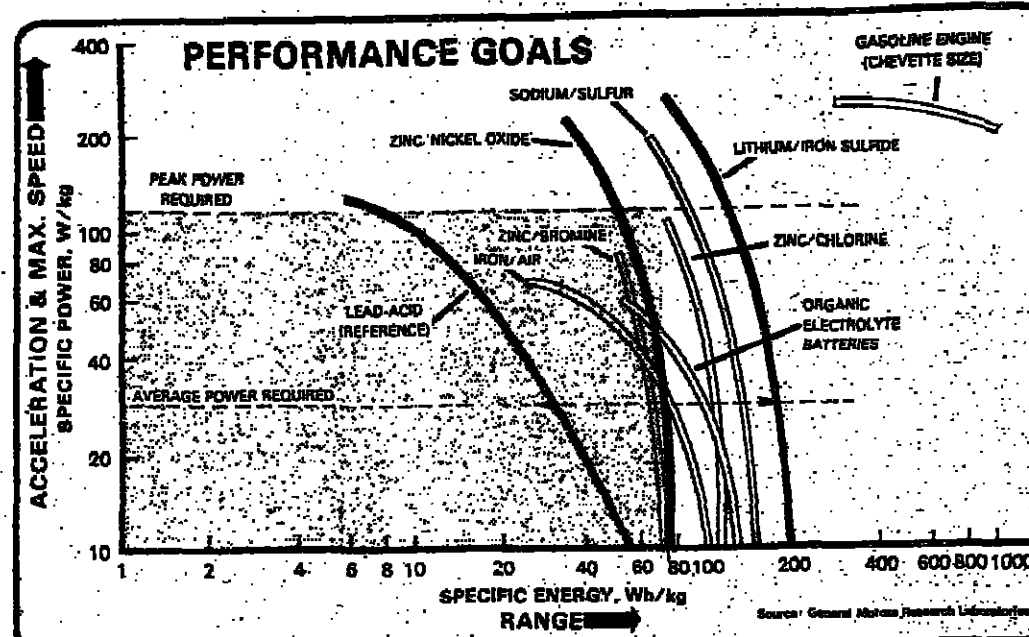
But the disadvantages are equally obvious: carrying around a redundant drive system for much of the time; the cost of battery packs in addition to fuel; and, the biggest drawback, manufacturing costs, even with an early commitment to high volumes, could be very much higher than a conventional vehicle because of their extra complexity.

Nevertheless, many volume makers are investigating the concept further, not least Daimler-Benz, which gave its own appraisal of progress last week. It inclines to the view that if a traffic-compatible road-going electric car is to appear within the next 15 years, that is the form it will most likely take.

The view is one shared by the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology, whose exhaustive, 200-page study of EVs concluded that hybrids merited extra funding over and above the Government's existing financial support for research into batteries and drive systems.

"Success may be 15 years away, or may never arrive," the committee concluded, "but they must be tried, and enough research and development must be done to prove their potential or kill them off if they are no good."

In the case of the purely battery-powered car, limited range is the biggest drawback—illustrated by the fact that 450



Specific energy defines a battery's energy storage capability and is a good indicator of an electric vehicle's range. Specific power defines how quickly energy can be tapped from a battery and gives an indication of top speed and acceleration. A small hatchback fitted with the maximum sustainable load of existing lead acid batteries could be expected to travel for about 50 miles at speeds up to 50 mph.

lbs of lead acid batteries are needed to provide the energy content of one litre of petrol. Superbatteries are unlikely to reduce that to less than 150 lbs. Other disadvantages include lengthy recharging times and an absence of infrastructure to recharge them. GM considers they are feasible only because the U.S. two-vehicle family is sufficiently widespread for one of these vehicles to be no more than an in-town runabout.

Thus European development has concentrated more on specific applications, such as urban commercials and buses, where the EV's disadvantages are least apparent.

The Dodge 50 vehicles, assembled by Karrier Motors, Talbot's commercial vehicles offshoot now owned jointly with Renault Vehicles Industriels, might be treading new ground in terms of exploring commercial acceptability. But they will be joining an assortment of roadgoing electric commercials already in use. Among them are 100 Lucas prototypes based on Bedford's one-tonne CF van, some earlier Dodge electric vans and a fleet of heavier vans built by Crompton Electric, a Hawker Siddeley subsidiary.

These have all been undergoing assessment with commercial users, in part under the "London Goes Electric" scheme sponsored by the Electricity Council and the Department of Industry. Prototypes on Ford's Transit

and BL Sherpa have also been built.

Initial Services, the industrial workwear group, has been sufficiently impressed to switch its London delivery fleet to all electric, 20 miles per hour Crompton vehicles. But while all the vehicles have demonstrated the potential for whole-life costs competitive with diesel vehicles, that the Department of Industry still considers it necessary to offer its subsidy cannot indicate all too clearly that there is a long way to go.

Chloride and Lucas, until earlier this year were following separate EV development paths; not the best tactics for two UK industry leaders in a market which, if it develops at all, will be on an international scale. Thus they have now set up a joint company, Lucas Chloride EV Systems, which will concentrate on developing and marketing batteries and drive systems. A five-year, £10m-programme is under way, with half the funds coming from the DoI, which is anxious that the two British companies should not lose what the three believe is a world-wide lead of about 18 months in such technology.

Yet despite this pooling, the British approach to EVs remains fragmented. It ranks with Dragonfly, for example, that in spite of its extensive R and D efforts—which have received considerable attention in the U.S.—the Government's

belief that progress will rest with "large," research-based organisations, has led to it being passed over for support from government agencies.

Partly the fragmentation is because of scepticism towards passenger EVs. But another important reason is cited by BL Technology, the State-owned group's R and D arm.

This is that, without a major realignment of manufacturing operations, those best able to bring EVs into production, the volume vehicle manufacturers, stand to gain little from them. It estimates that currently only about one-third of the added value of a purpose-built EV would accrue to the vehicle maker, the remainder to battery and systems manufacturers.

The third constraint is straight Catch 22: commercial success of EVs will depend on the initial price being brought down to much closer to that of a "normal" vehicle than it is at present. But that can only be achieved if volumes are high enough. And the volumes cannot be achieved if the price is too high.

In the case of the Chloride/Dodge 50, Talbot believes that "the future of such models as normal production vehicles depends on setting the capital cost ratio down to about 1.7:1 compared with its diesel equivalent, against 2.1 now."

But is the EV market given the current cost and perform-

ance gap with conventional vehicles, worth pursuing?

An EEC Commission study 18 months ago concluded that EVs could account for 5 per cent of the total EEC market, or 1m vehicles, by the turn of the century. In the U.S., consultants Arthur D. Little have just published a report suggesting that U.S. output could be 250,000 a year by 1990 if the Department of Energy facing abolition under the Reagan Administration, was allowed to proceed with the co-operative development agreement it has proposed to U.S. manufacturers.

If not, will Japan take up the running instead? This could be important, because Daihatsu, which makes nearly 1m petrol and diesel vehicles a year, has the lion's share of an official Japanese EV programme planned to put 200,000 of them on the road by 1995. It is believed to have achieved, or be very close to achieving, a commercially viable nickel/iron "superbattery." The first phase of its Ministry of Trade and Industry-directed research programme was ending in 1976 as those of Britain and U.S. were starting.

Japan has formally claimed its EV work "has attained the highest level in the world." Given the Japanese obsession with loss of face, such claims are made rarely, and never lightly.

The British companies say they are not worried; that if the Japanese do get in first they would be helping to make EVs appear more credible. Because leaders in the British industry currently are interested more in selling battery and drive systems than complete vehicles, it would not matter who initially created the market. As long as it became established, opportunities to sell their systems should arise as more and more manufacturers joined in.

Yet the West's motor industry finds it difficult enough to compete with Japan in the conventional vehicles field, where it still retains a technological advantage.

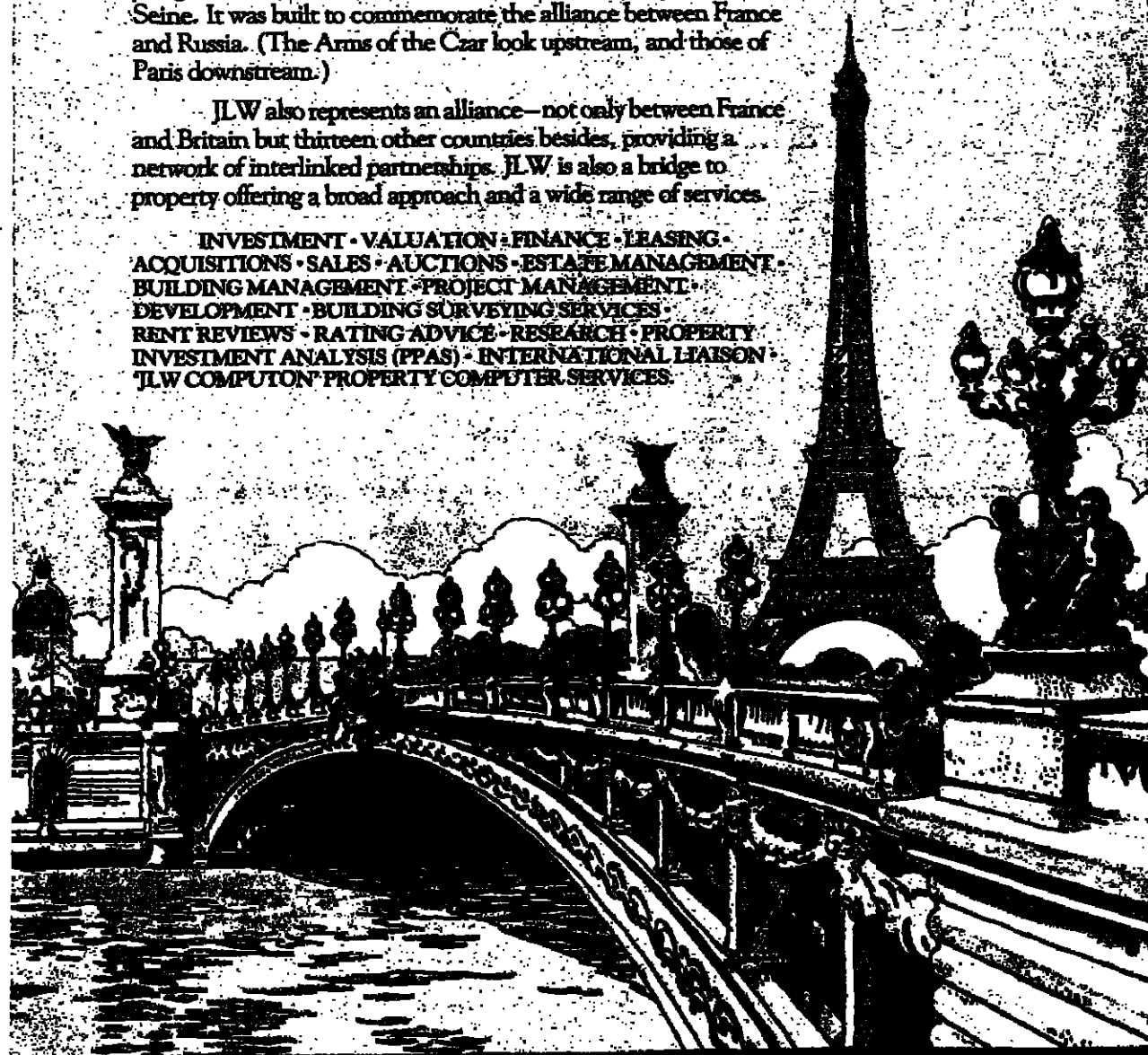
Japan's electric vehicles have been mostly developed "in house," including the batteries and drive systems on which Chloride's and Lucas's success is staked. If the Japanese do enter the field first in volume, with technology which turns out to be equal to, or even ahead of, the West's, then they could well wind up calling an uncomfortable number of shots as the EV market develops.

Pont Alexandre III et Jones Lang Wootton

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Group assets at December 1986 totalled more than £19,000 million.

Companies and Markets

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

New York
slide hits
Eurodollar
bond prices

By Alan Friedman

EURODOLLAR BOND prices fell sharply yesterday as the market reacted to Friday's slump in the New York bond market and yesterday's rise in short-term Eurocurrency interest rates.

The Eurodollar market opened one point down at the longer end and 1/2 point down among short-term fixed interest bonds. Worries over the Reagan budget deficit were fuelled by a nervous opening.

Six-month Eurocurrency
Interest Rates

Currency	Yesterday	Change on week
Eurodollar	18 1/2	+ 1/2
Swiss franc	12 1/4	+ 1/4
D-mark	12 1/2	+ 1/2

of the bond market in New York as prices of long-term Treasury stock started trading more than a point off Friday's level.

There was some selling in the Eurodollar market but prices fell mainly as dealers marked bonds lower. The slump in world stock markets, although not a direct factor in the falling bond market, contributed to what one banker called "a sense of unease."

Recent issues were not spared from yesterday's mark-down. In the market trading last week's 16 1/2 per cent (World Bank) issues were being quoted below Friday's level. The five-year \$100m first tranche yesterday attracted a bid-price of 96 1/2, against the issue price of par. Likewise, the seven-year \$100m second tranche was quoted at 96 1/2 against par.

Meanwhile, the 16 1/2 per cent ten-year issue for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce was quoted yesterday at a bid price of 95 1/2, down 1 1/2 points on the day. The recently launched \$30m Swedish convertible for Aga was bid at 96.

Venezuela plans
\$500m funding

BY DAVID LASCELLES IN NEW YORK

VENEZUELA expects to come to the international capital markets for about \$500m in the next three months and plans to maintain a continuous presence there as it carries out its heavy public sector financing programme, Sr Luis Ugueto, the Finance Minister, told a meeting of bankers.

Following the enactment of new public credit laws this summer, Venezuela has put together borrowing plans for three major purposes: refinancing the public debt; funding the electricity programme; and building the Caracas underground railway. Although much of this will be financed internally, Sr Ugueto said that the domestic market was limited and that substantial use would be made of international markets as well.

Heading the list is refinancing Venezuela's public debt of \$1.6bn bolivars (\$1.4bn). About 30 per cent of this will be refinanced in the next nine months, one fifth of it abroad. This will include a \$500m foreign borrowing. Mr Ugueto

said Venezuela had decided not to go for the much-expedited "jumbo-loan" because it preferred the flexibility of coming to the market more frequently for smaller amounts, mainly because of the uncertain state of the markets.

The electricity programme will need 280n bolivars, of which 180n will be borrowed abroad. The metro will need 100n bolivars which will be raised either in bolivars or in foreign currencies.

The state investment fund will also be raising money to finance public corporations, like steel.

Venezuela will spread its borrowing among a number of markets and currencies. According to a senior official from the central bank, borrowing will be made either by means of Eurobonds or syndicated loans, and denominated in dollars, D-marks, yen, Swiss francs, and sterling on the building market. He said Venezuela will also make use of the Middle Eastern and Far Eastern capital markets.

\$130m for U.S. utility

BY FRANCIS GHILES

CAROLINA POWER and Light has arranged a \$130m five-year loan through Morgan Stanley which will serve as a back-up line for the issuing of commercial paper in New York. The borrower is paying a split margin over the interbank rate of 1/2 per cent for the first three years, rising to 3/4 per cent.

Marathon Petroleum, the Irish subsidiary of the U.S. Marathon Oil Corporation, is arranging a \$270m Eurocredit under the aegis of Chase Manhattan Bank and the Bank of Ireland. A sum of \$200m of the total consists of fresh funds, the rest being in effect refinancing of an earlier loan. The borrower is paying a spread of 1/2 per cent for eight years.

Indonesia has asked Bank of America, Lloyds Bank International and Industrial Bank of Japan to arrange a \$300m 10-year loan which will include a margin of 1/2 per cent, the lowest yet for this borrower. Indonesia is benefiting, along with a few other east Asian countries including Malaysia, from a further fall in the margins at which banks are prepared to lend them funds.

The terms of the \$2bn recently arranged through NatWest Bank for Standard Oil of Ohio includes an option to pay the prime rate of the leading bank or 1/2 per cent over certificates of deposit (CDs) of various maturity or 1/2 per cent over the Libor rate.

Grumman
files suit
to thwart
LTV bid

By Our New York Staff

GRUMMAN, the Long Island military aircraft maker which rejected a \$450m takeover bid by LTV over the weekend, filed an anti-trust suit in New York yesterday in an effort to thwart the Dallas-based conglomerate.

The suit says that Grumman and the Vought aerospace division of LTV are competitors in the market for U.S. Navy aircraft, as well as in the air frame market, and that a merger would result in reduced competition.

Anti-trust actions are a common blocking tactic in hostile takeover bids, and LTV did not seem dismayed by the development yesterday. Mr Paul Thayer, LTV's chairman, said he was not surprised that Grumman had rejected the takeover bid, and he said he did not think they could win an anti-trust suit. "We will stay in the fight," he vowed.

On Sunday, Grumman's board rejected LTV's \$450 million offer as inadequate, and the Pentagon has also expressed unease because of the possible impact on U.S. weapon suppliers.

Bally to buy
Six Flags from
Penn Central

By Our New York Staff

BALLY MANUFACTURING, the large gaming and entertainment company, is to buy Six Flags, one of the largest amusement park groups in the U.S., for about \$140m. The seller is Penn Central, the reconstituted railroad company which is forging a new existence for itself in energy and manufacturing. Terms are the payment of \$75m in cash with the rest in a three-year note yielding 16 1/2 per cent.

Six Flags is the second largest U.S. amusement parks enterprise after Walt Disney.

Advance seen
by Warner
Lambert

By Our Financial Staff

WARNER-LAMBERT, the pharmaceuticals and consumer products group, expects to lift its operating earnings by 20 per cent in the final half of this year.

The company said that in its second quarter it had begun to derive benefits from its new strategic plan, which has seen the company divest low margin businesses and shut less efficient operations.

However, despite the 11 per cent improvement in operating earnings—which Warner-Lambert takes as before currency translation and non-recurring items—net profits for the second quarter were down from \$39.73m to \$35.14m.

The company believes that the improvement in operating profits in the final six months of the current year will result in an overall rise in annual operating earnings which will be followed by double digit earnings growth in 1982.

In the first quarter the company took a \$134m after-tax charge for planned sales of businesses and the closure of a consumer products manufacturing plant, which left a net loss of \$57.73m for the first six months against a \$115.6m profit in 1980. Total 1980 net profits were \$192m.

Ruling on
mutual funds

By Our New York Staff

NEW YORK State-chartered banks and trust companies can organise open-end investment funds or mutual funds through subsidiaries, announced Mr Muriel Siebert, State Banking Superintendent.

The ruling is significant because it outlines ways banks can operate mutual funds without violating the Glass-Steagall Act, the Federal Law that prevents commercial banks from doing many brokerage activities, such as operating a mutual fund. It is limited, however, because it covers only 56 banks and trust companies with assets totalling \$18.7bn operating in New York, that do not have Federal charters, and excludes the State's banking giants, such as Citicorp, Chase Manhattan, and Manufacturers Hanover.

However, the ruling was sufficient to irritate the Investment Company Institute, a Washington DC-based trade group. Its officials view the New York ruling as a weapon the country's big banks—which have been seeking to operate money funds to compete with Wall Street names as Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith—might use to persuade Congress to end Glass-Steagall prohibitions.

Interest rate windfall for Harvester

ANY WHO considered the nonsense way in which U.S. banks dealt with all the American World Airways sign of a toughening in attitudes to problem customers would need to think again in the light of last week's deal between International Harvester and its eight lead banks.

Harvester announced on Friday agreement in principle with the banks for a \$4.1bn debt rescheduling. This is the second such agreement inside a year. The first, much less generous, deal was never signed and had to be torn up because Harvester's cash haemorrhage had rendered the terms inadequate.

Among the terms of the latest agreement is a cap on the cash Harvester will have to pay in interest charges. Harvester will pay no more than 16 per cent on \$1.5bn of debt at its unconsolidated credit subsidiary, the top interest rate will be 11 per cent. With prime rate at 19.5 per cent, and possibly heading higher before year-end, that represents a windfall worth \$20m a month, according to Harvester.

In return for this generosity, Harvester has offered a number of compensations. The company will be given the security of collateral in the form of fixed assets, although no particular assets are named against specific loans, and there is no alteration to the priority of the banks in the event of bankruptcy. The importance of this clause may, therefore, be more apparent than real.

The banks will be entitled to notes from Harvester covering the value of the interest payments they have forgone. These notes mature in 2004 for the parent company debt, and in 1998 for the credit company. In addition, lenders to the parent company will gradually build up rights entitling them to buy Harvester common stock at \$10 per share—a price which may yet come to seem highly

attractive. In late 1979 Harvester shares were selling for more than \$45 each. The maximum number of shares which could go to the banks under this scheme is 4.4m.

The banks have also ensured—as is customary in what U.S. bankers call "workout situations"—that Harvester will not

seem prepared to accept that the company's failure to prepare itself financially for a long strike was at least in part the fault of the banks themselves.

"The Harvester story is quite simply one of interest rates," said one banker. "High interest rates depress their markets and add immensely to

The interest rate caps will certainly help, although they have to be seen in the context of the scale of Harvester's operating losses, which will probably reach \$500m for the fiscal year which ends in October. Harvester also still has a mountain of debt—\$3.7bn in the parent company alone—which it has little immediate prospect of reducing.

Ian Hargreaves in New York looks
at the debt pact between the U.S.
farm equipment and truck maker
and its eight principal banks

pay any dividends to shareholders during the life of the loan agreement, due to expire in December, 1983.

The deal, which has to be ratified by Harvester's 300 bankers worldwide, is better than the company could have dreamed of six months ago, when Harvester executives—along with many other U.S. businessmen—were still convinced that President Ronald Reagan would quickly rescue them from high interest rates.

Some explanation is required as to why the banks have agreed to go so far to help Harvester when others, such as White Motor, a Harvester competitor, have been either pushed into bankruptcy or, like Pan Am, forced into massive retrenchment.

The crucial difference (apart from that of size) is that most bankers involved believe that Harvester's products and market position in its two main businesses, farm machinery and trucks, remain very strong. Harvester's market share has, in fact, improved in several areas this year. This confidence may have been damaged by the poor impression created by Harvester top management in the handling of last year's United Auto workers' strike. Yet the banks

their costs at the same time."

So the strategy is to ease Harvester's interest burden in order to help the company conserve cash, in the belief that it will emerge sound and profitable once demand for its products improves.

Another important cash conservation measure agreed last week is that the lead banks do not seem to be applying pressure for major asset sales, even though there will continue to be a trickle of small-scale rationalisations. Some bankers would still like to see Harvester rid itself of its construction division. But with the U.S. construction market in its worst condition for many years, they have had to accept that there are few, if any, potential buyers for a chronically unsuccessful part of the Harvester empire.

Whether these first aid measures will save the patient is, however, another question.

The lead bankers believe that their proposed deal for two years will give Harvester an umbrella under which to shelter from turbulent interest rates and beneath which management can press ahead with plans to cut overheads and inventories and generally raise productivity and efficiency.

The deal will not, of course, lessen the impact of high interest rates, on the demand for Harvester's products, although it will no doubt prove tempting for Harvester, as it did for Chrysler, to use the funds provided by the restructuring to price its products more aggressively.

First-half surge at Wah Kwong Shipping

BY OUR HONG KONG CORRESPONDENT

WAH KWONG Shipping and Investment, which controls deadweight tonnage of more than 3.2m and has a further 30 vessels on order, increased its half-year profits by 40 per cent to HK\$7.4m (U.S.\$12m) in the six months to June 30.

Mr Tsong-Yen Chao, the chairman, warned that the continuing high level of interest rates had put pressure on an already-weak shipping market, and forecast that international shipping would remain in the doldrums for at least another two years.

An interim dividend of 10 cents has been declared, of earnings per share of 43 cents.

In May, Wah Kwong bought the remaining 48 per cent minority interest in Arun Investment, owner of the Francois Venture, making the company a wholly-owned subsidiary of the group. The vessel was later sold. Contracts for four new ships, to be delivered in 1982-1983, were struck, said Mr Chao. Three of the vessels would be paid for in Japanese yen.

Of the 66-storey Hopewell Centre in Hong Kong's Wanchai, has announced profits after tax for the year ended June 30 of HK\$153.7m (U.S.\$25.3m), a 42 per cent rise on 1980.

The company—which earlier this year completed Asia's tallest building adding another two stories half-way through its development—has recommended a four-for-one stock split dividing the HK\$2 shares into four of 50 cents each.

On the basis of yesterday's closing price, this amounts to a new market value of about HK\$4.25 per share.

The directors have also recommended a final dividend of 40 cents per share. Together with the interim figure of 15 cents, this amounts to a total dividend for the year of 55 cents, to show a rise of 37.5 per cent.

The board is to propose a one-for-four bonus issue to be distributed to shareholders on October 27. The new shares will not rank for the final dividend, but in all other respects will rank with existing share capital.

FT INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

The list shows the 300 latest international bond issues for which an adequate secondary market exists. For further details of these or other bonds see the complete list of Eurobond issues which will be published next on Thursday October 15.

U.S. DOLLAR		Issued	Bid	Offer	Day	Week	Yield
STRAIGHTS							
CIBC 14 1/2		185	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.24
CIBC 15 1/2		75	94 1/2	94 1/2	-1 1/2	-1 1/2	12.81
CIBC 16 1/2		75	94 1/2	94 1/2	-1 1/2	-1 1/2	12.81
CNE 13 1/2		100	79 1/2	80 1/2	-0 1/2	-0 1/2	12.21
Citibank Int. Fin. 15 1/2		150	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank O/S Fin. 15 1/2		150	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 16 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 17 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 18 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 19 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 20 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 21 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 22 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 23 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 24 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 25 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 26 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 27 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 28 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 29 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 30 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 31 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 32 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 33 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 34 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 35 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 36 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 37 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 38 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 39 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 40 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 41 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 42 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 43 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 44 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 45 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 46 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 47 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 48 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 49 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 50 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 51 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 52 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 53 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 54 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 55 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 56 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 57 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 58 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 59 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 60 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 61 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 62 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 63 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 64 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 65 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 66 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 67 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 68 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 69 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 70 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 71 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 72 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 73 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 74 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 75 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 76 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 77 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 78 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 79 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 80 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 81 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 82 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 83 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 84 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 85 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 86 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 87 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 88 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 89 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 90 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 91 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 92 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 93 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 94 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 95 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 96 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 97 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 98 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 99 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 100 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 101 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 102 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 103 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 104 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 105 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 106 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 107 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 108 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 109 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 110 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 111 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 112 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 113 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 114 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 115 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 116 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 117 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 118 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 119 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 120 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 121 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 122 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 123 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 124 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 125 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 126 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 127 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 128 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 129 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 130 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 131 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 132 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 133 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 134 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 135 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 136 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 137 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 138 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 139 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 140 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 141 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 142 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 143 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 144 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 145 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 146 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 147 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 148 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 149 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 150 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 151 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 152 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 153 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 154 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 155 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 156 1/2		175	94 1/2	94 1/2	-0 1/2	-1 1/2	12.43
Citibank 157 1/2		175</					

COMPANY NOTICES

Gold Fields

Notice of annual general meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Consolidated Gold Fields Limited will be held at the Hotel Inter-Continental, Grand Ballroom Entrance, One Hamilton Place, London W1, on Tuesday, 27 October 1981 at 11.30 am, for the transaction of the following business:

- 1 To receive and consider the audited accounts for the year ended 30 June 1981, together with the report of the Directors, and to declare a final dividend.
- 2 To re-elect Directors.
- 3 To re-appoint the Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix the Auditors' remuneration.

4 To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following Resolution which will be proposed as a Special Resolution:

That, with effect from the date of issue of a Certificate of Incorporation on re-registration of the Company as a public company pursuant to the Companies Act 1980, the Memorandum of Association of the Company be altered by deleting the existing Clause 3 thereof and substituting therefor the Clause set out in the document marked 'A' produced to this Meeting and signed for identification by the Chairman.

5 To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following Resolution which will be proposed as a Special Resolution:

That, with effect from the date of issue of a Certificate of Incorporation on re-registration of the Company as a public company pursuant to the Companies Act 1980, the Regulations contained in the document marked 'B', produced to this Meeting and signed for identification by the Chairman be adopted as the Articles of Association of the Company in substitution for and to the exclusion of the existing Articles of Association.

By Order of the Board PFG/Roc/Secretary
29 September 1981

Only members holding fully paid Ordinary shares, or their duly appointed representatives, are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting. A member so entitled may appoint a proxy, who need not be a member, to attend and vote on his behalf.

Holders of share warrants to bearer who wish to be present or represented at the meeting may obtain the necessary information regarding the formalities to be complied with from the registered office of the Company.

The register of Directors' interests, together with copies of contracts of service between the Directors and the Company or any of its subsidiaries for a memorandum of the terms thereof, other than contracts expiring or determinable within one year without payment of compensation, and copies of the existing Memorandum and Articles of Association and drafts of the proposed new objects clause and Articles of Association, will be available for inspection at the registered office of the Company during normal business hours until the date of the annual general meeting and on that day at the place of the meeting from 11.15 am until its conclusion.

Consolidated Gold Fields Limited

49 Moorgate, London EC2R 6BQ

HENRY DENNY & SONS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from September 29th to October 1st, 1981, both dates inclusive.

L. L. SALDWIN, Secretary.

Bathurst House,
Fleet Street,
London EC4A 3BJ.

TRAVEL

FLY V.I.P. FOR LESS. First-class service, low-cost fares. The ideal plane for the busy traveller. Call 01-535 5171. Fax: 01-535 5171. 8175 St. James Travel (air agents).

ART GALLERIES

CRANE KALMAN GALLERY, 178,rompton Rd., SW2, 584 7556. 20th Century British European Paintings, Sculpture, Photographs, Prints, Drawings, etc. Mon-Fri, 10-6. Sat, 10-1.

CRANE GALLERY, 171A, Sloane St. (1st Floor) SW1, 235 2454. Early English Paintings, Furniture, Quilts, Decors, Folk Art, 'AMERICAN'. One of London's most beautiful galleries.

WYLLMA WAYNE, 17, Old Bond St., W1. THREE CENTURIES OF WATERCOLOURS, 19th Century and Contemporary Paintings, Prints, Drawings, etc. Mon-Fri, 10-6. Sat, 10-1.

FIELDGROVE GALLERIES, 63, Queen's Gate, St. John's Wood, SW6 3BQ. Summer Exhibitions.

MATHIAS GALLERY, 24, Motcomb Street, London, SW1. Tel: 235 0010. Specialists in 19th Century and Contemporary Paintings of ARABIA.

WHITECHAPEL ART GALLERY, Whitechapel, E1 10 1. Tel: 252 0107. Tel: 01-252 4211. Exhibition continues until October 7.

LEFEVRE GALLERY, 30, Bruton St., W1. 01-593 1572. 30th CENTURY WORKS ON VIEW. Mon-Fri, 10-5. Sat, 10-1.

BROWNE & DARRY, 19, Cork St., W1. 01-734 7884. ANTHONY EYTON - Indian and other new paintings & drawings.

THE PARKER GALLERY, 2, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, W1. Exhibition of Old Master, Military and sports and Topographical Prints and Paintings of Ship Models.

Companies and Markets

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

Fiat issues L200bn index-linked bonds

By James Buxton in Rome

FIAT, the motor-group, yesterday became the first major Italian company to issue index-linked bonds on the Milan capital market.

It is to raise L200bn (\$180m) through an issue of seven year bonds at par. The initial coupon will be 10 per cent with subsequent returns linked to a spread of 0.75 per cent above an indexed base.

The issue offers investors an initial annual yield of 21.2 per cent, which compares with the present inflation rate in Italy of 20 per cent. The bond is tax free.

The bond has been placed with banks which are offering it to the public. It appears to be appropriate for the current Italian financial market, which has been shaken by the fierce gyrations of the Milan stock exchange (which crashed in June and has been uncertain ever since) and the fact that the fixed interest-market offers the saver little except Treasury bills.

● IFL, the holding company of the Agnelli family, which controls Fiat, has announced more than tripled profits for the year ended June 1981.

But the profit figure for the holding company, which owns 30 per cent of Fiat, reflects the sale of its stake in the Rinascente stores chain. Profits rose from L8.5bn to L28.2bn (\$8.4m) in 1980-81. The 1980-81 figure is arrived at after provisions and after taking in profits from the sale of Rinascente of L21.2bn.

IFL is 40 per cent owned by the Agnelli-Nasi families, and the company has announced the appointment of Sir Umberto Agnelli, brother of the Fiat chairman, Sir Giovanni Agnelli, as managing director.

IFL reports a dividend income of L23.7bn for the year, of which L8.5bn was regarded as extraordinary.

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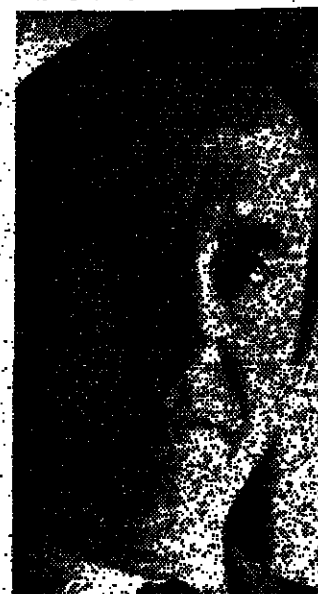
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Rumasa takes on a retailing challenge

Robert Graham looks at a controversial Spanish acquisition



Sr Jose Maria Ruiz-Mateos

day was not far off when debt would have to be exchanged for equity.

Urquijo has considerable experience in real estate development and management, his subsidiary, Vallehermoso, being one of Spain's largest property investment and development companies.

are half those of its rival, El Corte Ingles. Despite recent reductions it still suffers from overstaffing.

The acquisition fits Rumasa's store group, El Corte Ingles. For Rumasa the attraction is diversification.

The Rumasa bank group, with some 1,000 branches, is now in a position to persuade Galerías' many suppliers to transfer their business to the group and to work out new credit terms with Galerías. Galerías itself, with a Pta 36bn annual turnover, is also an attractive customer.

Meanwhile, Rumasa's insurance companies, advertising agencies (Galerías has a huge advertising budget), and construction companies stand to benefit. The store chain also offers a distribution outlet for Rumasa wines, sherries and brandies and cosmetics, and provides scope for large-scale foodstuff distribution.

But Galerías is not an easy group to take on. Urquijo expects last year's Pta 2.9bn loss to be repeated this year, and turnover has not matched inflation. Sales are only marginally above the Pta 30bn value of its property assets, and with floor space of 226,453 sq metres, its sales per sq metre

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Companies
and Markets

INTL. COMPANIES & FINANCE

Carrian shifts HK \$1.3 bn
of assets into quoted arm

BY KEVIN RAFFERTY IN HONG KONG

CARRIAN INVESTMENTS, the publicly quoted company of the rapidly growing Carrian group, has reported lower interim profits for the six months to June 30. The company also announced plans to acquire a wide range of interests from its holding company, Carrian Holdings, through a share issue worth HK\$1.33bn (U.S.\$219m).

Profits after tax and minority interests were HK\$282.6m or HK\$0.74 a share compared with HK\$440.7m or HK\$1.25 a share for the six months to September 30 1980. The periods differ because Carrian has changed its accounting year.

The company points out that a direct comparison with last year's results is misleading because of a major contribution last year from the sale of the Bank of America Tower (formerly Gammon House) which was bought for about HK\$1.1bn and sold for HK\$1.68bn a few months later.

Carrian Investments is to pay an interim dividend of 16 cents a share and plans a one-for-five scrip issue. Last year's interim dividend was an adjusted 6.6 cents a share, boosted by a special dividend of 9.9 cents a share.

The company is to enter into conditional agreements to acquire from Carrian Holdings interests in commercial, residential and industrial properties and in quoted shares in Hong Kong. The properties include an 85 per cent interest in Kwong Sang Hong Building, which is to be renamed Carrian Centre and will be the company's headquarters when it is ready for occupation early next year. Carrian Investments already has the remaining 15 per cent interest in the building.

Share interests to be bought from the holding company include a 45 per cent interest in Melowise (a company which together with a wholly-owned subsidiary, owns 71 per cent of General Bottling Company); 48.8 per cent of China Underwriters Life and General Assurance Company; 27.7 per cent of Union Bank of Hong Kong; and 20.7 per cent of Sun King Fung Development.

The prices at which the assets are to be acquired will be the cost, including carrying cost, to the vendors. About 145m new shares will be issued at a HK\$9.30 a share to be adjusted for the scrip issue. This compares with Carrian Investments closing price last night of HK\$8.30.

The company is confident that full year profits will be higher pro-rata than the HK\$600m of the previous nine months. The final dividend will be not less than 26 cents per share on the increased share capital. The company says: "a number of significant transactions are due to be completed during the second half of this year."

Dunlop Olympic
sales
top A\$1bn

By Our Financial Staff

SALES OF Dunlop Olympic, the tyre, cables and industrial products group rose by 53.3 per cent in the year to June 30, to pass the A\$1bn mark, at A\$1.1bn (U.S.\$1.3bn) against A\$724.22m in 1979-80. Net profits were up still more sharply, by 83.9 per cent to A\$39.42m (U.S.\$45.2m), from A\$21.44m before an extraordinary loss of A\$4.65m against a profit of A\$551,000. The group, in which Dunlop of the UK holds a stake of 8.4 per cent, was formed late last year by Dunlop Australia's winning an A\$90m takeover bid for Olympic Consolidated Industries.

The results thus represent the first full year's trading for the group, with the results struck in comparison with the combined figures the previous year of the two.

The gains, Dunlop Olympic said, represented buoyant trading conditions since the merger, and in the current financial year, the bringing together of the two operations would continue to offer benefits. The 1980-81 improvement in results had been widely spread across the group's range of activities.

An unchanged final dividend of 4 cents a share has been declared, making 8 cents for the year, against 7.5 cents. A new issue shares payout of 2 cents is also being made.

Advance for
Carpenter
holdings

By Our Sydney Correspondent

W. R. CARPENTER HOLDINGS, the Australian trading and investment group, overcame industrial disputes and a further slide in its Papua New Guinea operations to boost earnings by 17 per cent in the year to June 30.

Earnings climbed from A\$13.17m (US\$15.13m) to a record A\$15.42m, which is equal to 35.4 cents a share compared with 30.2 cents. The annual dividend has been increased to 15 cents from 14 cents.

A lower tax level has also helped earnings. It was down from A\$8m to A\$3.3m as a result of available tax losses in Australia and the U.S. Turnover rose by no more than 4.2 per cent to A\$415.9m. Interest costs rose to A\$10m from A\$9.8m, and depreciation was up to A\$8.6m from A\$8.2m.

Property interests boost Stelux

BY OUR HONG KONG CORRESPONDENT

STELUX MANUFACTURING Company benefited from greater concentration on property rather than its traditional manufacturing base in its latest year, with net profits at HK\$100.26m (U.S.\$16.5m) in the period to March 31 compared with HK\$55.76m.

After extraordinary charges of HK\$2.85m the reduced attributable profit was HK\$97.41m against last year's HK\$437.26m.

The 1979-80 figure included an extraordinary profit of HK\$431.51m, mainly from the sale of a property owning subsidiary and a banking investment.

The extraordinary charges this year mainly resulted from provisions and losses from the closure of a manufacturing subsidiary and an associate company.

A final dividend of 25 cents has been recommended for an

unchanged total of 40 cents per share. There will be a one-for-five scrip issue and the company expects to maintain the dividend in the current year on the increased capital.

The company believes its potential strength in the reorganised watch production and marketing operations, its property portfolio and its liquid assets will ensure a solid base for development in the coming few years.

Hume FE
holders accept
Hong Leong

By Georgie Lee in Singapore

HONG LEONG Holdings has received acceptances representing 44.2m shares for its takeover offer for Hume Industries (Far East), equivalent to about 76.2 per cent of the issued capital.

Hong Leong offered S\$6.10 (U.S.\$2.88) per share to Hume Far East shareholders following its agreement with Hume Limited of Australia to acquire its holding of 36m Hume Far East shares.

Hong Leong has now given notice that its offer will close at 3.30 pm on October 10, 1981. All acceptances, it said, are irrevocable.

Scrip and rights issues
planned by Public Bank

BY WONG SULONG IN KUALA LUMPUR

PUBLIC BANK, the fast growing publicly listed Malaysian bank, is to more than double its capital to 70m ringgit (U.S.\$30m) through scrip and rights issues to comply with the new Central Bank regulations on capital deposit ratios.

Public Bank proposes to capitalise on 10m ringgit from reserves to make a two-for-five scrip issue. This will be followed by a one-for-one rights issue of 35m shares of 1 ringgit each at 2 ringgit per share.

The rights issue will bring in 70m ringgit, and the bank's paid-up capital after the exercise will be increased to 70m

shares of 1 ringgit each. The authorised capital will be lifted from 50m ringgit to 300m ringgit.

Bank Negara, the Malaysian central bank, ruled last month that local banks have until the end of the year to maintain a 1-to-25 capital deposit ratio, while foreign banks have to keep a 1-to-16.6 ratio.

At end-June, the Public Bank group had shareholders' funds of 50m ringgit and deposits exceeding 20m ringgit, giving it a 1-to-40 ratio.

Public bank made after tax profits of 10.3m ringgit in the six months to June, almost equal to the profit for all 1980.

NEW ISSUE

All these securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.

September 1981



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(Nippon Chemi-Con Kabushiki Kaisha)
(Incorporated under the laws of Japan)

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Share gloom hits metals

BY JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR

THE GLOOM on the stock exchanges spilled over onto the London metal markets yesterday bringing steep price falls. Worst affected were precious metals where the sudden decline in gold resulted in free market platinum and silver prices being marked down sharply.

Free market platinum lost £18.35 to £219.35 a troy ounce. The bullion spot quotation for silver was cut by 38.9p to 495.85p in the afternoon, before rallying in after hours trading. Silver was additionally unsettled by the prospect of sales by the U.S. strategic stockpile starting this week.

On the London Metal Exchange the most spectacular drop was in the thinly traded nickel futures market where the cash price plunged by £295 to £2,685 a tonne.

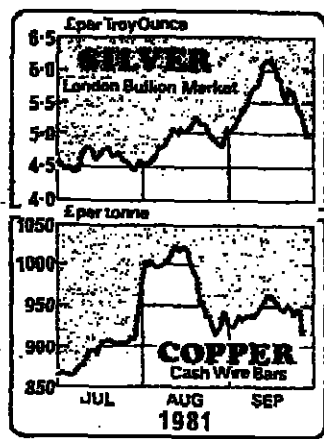
But there were heavy losses in the more active markets too. Copper cash wirebars lost £34 to £212.5 a tonne; cash zinc £34 to £467.5; cash lead rose £27 to £2,125 and cash tin £145 to £8,240 a tonne.

There was some recovery in late afternoon, and after hours trading encouraged by a steadier trend in New York.

However, there is some apprehension that losses in stocks and shares could force speculators to dispose of their metal holdings at a time when economic prospects have taken a distinct turn for the worse.

Encouraging the downturn in copper was news that workers at Noranda's Horne smelter in Quebec had voted to end the strike started last week.

Speculative selling was the main reason behind the fall in nickel, but aluminium futures were hit by stocks in the LME warehouse rising to over 100,000 tonnes for the first time ever.



Buffer stock boosts cocoa

By John Edwards, Commodities Editor

COCOA prices rose to the highest level for 15 months in London yesterday following the first ever support buying operation by the buffer stock of the International Cocoa Agreement.

Traders claimed that the buffer stock bought the maximum amount of cocoa allowed for daily purchases—10,000 tonnes at the stated price of 2,330 a tonne. This is still below the Agreement's "floor" of 110 cents a lb, calculated to be the equivalent of around £1,350/60 a tonne in London.

On the London futures market the December position closed £17 up at £1,312.5 a tonne.

The buffer stock, which plans to issue details of prices and purchases at the end of each trading day, is not allowed to deal in futures. Its operations are confined to the physical market. At current prices the £22m to the buffer stock should be able to cover purchases of over 90,000 tonnes.

Alcan has been preparing its strategy towards achieving higher prices for some time and the timing of yesterday's announcement was fixed in advance.

Alcan believes its proposed price rise is justified by the higher raw materials costs all British producers are suffering because raw materials are priced in dollars.

Record harvest forecast

BY JOHN CHERRINGTON, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S HARVEST now being completed will amount to a record 19.45m tonnes of all cereals, according to the merchants' organisation UKASTA. Last year's figure was 19.3m tonnes. This forecast which is surprising in view of the poor returns from the early crop is partly due to a substantial barley crop of 2m tonnes in Scotland.

Details given by UKASTA's President, Mr Martin George, were that barley plantings had increased by 12 per cent to 1.55m hectares and the total yield to 10.4m tonnes, higher than the three previous years.

The wheat crop is estimated as being one of 8.4m tonnes as against 8.2m last year with the area sown having been increased by 3 per cent to 1.45m hectares.

The oats crop has risen to 650,000 tonnes and is of good quality and bushel weight.

Oilseed rape has not done so well this year. Production is down slightly in spite of an increase in the area planted. Bad conditions in the spring inhibited full development of the crop, but farmers are said to be planning to plant a further 42 per cent of oilseed rape for next year's harvest.

These high yields are viewed with some scepticism in the southern part of England where yields have been at best variable and certainly not comparable with those of last year.

However farmers' views of the harvest are very much conditioned by their own personal experience. It must also be said that present market conditions do not point to an over-supplied market.

As compared with last year, although a similar quantity of barley—320,000 tonnes—has been offered to intervention, about 74,000 tonnes have been withdrawn as against 21,000 at the same time last year. Offers to intervention have now completely dried up.

There does appear to be a demand for milling barley, partly for direct export as malt and also for home demand.

There has also been a sizeable export trade of feed barley with considerable tonnages having been shipped already. These exports were encouraged by some generous EEC restitutions at the beginning of the season.

So keen has the export trade been that many traders have been short, particularly in southern England.

My view is that wheat could be nearer the UKASTA forecast. But the protein quality is not very high and some very high premiums are being paid for samples 11 per cent or over.

The European crop is believed to be down and there is a considerable demand from such newcomers to the market as Spain and the near East.

World cotton crop up

WASHINGTON—The world cotton crop is estimated at a record 70.6m bales, up slightly from prospects a month ago and 8 per cent larger than last year, the U.S. Agricultural Department says.

Favourable growing conditions in the U.S. and China have been important factors in the outlook, according to a recent analysis by the department's foreign agricultural service.

U.S. production is currently indicated at 15.5m bales, the largest crop since 1953. Last year's harvest was 11.1m bales. Chinese production is estimated at 13.3m bales, compared with 12.4m last year.

The Soviet Union, another large producer, is expected to harvest 13.5m bales, down from 14.3m in 1980, the report said.

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UK poultry health rules relaxed

By Sara Evans

THE GOVERNMENT is to relax its new stringent EEC animal health and hygiene laws on UK poultry producers who supply the home market alone. The Ministry of Agriculture has said it will, however, continue to issue strict instructions on the regulations to those companies wishing to export.

UK poultry producers argue that the new EEC health rules would double their veterinary inspection costs and the extra cost would have to be passed on to the consumer.

British producers can still export poultry to Europe, provided they follow the new regulations by acquiring a health mark which is now obligatory for inter-Community trade.

Mr John Tandy, president of the British Veterinary Association, said that consumers should object to the relaxation.

He argued that veterinary costs were minute in comparison with the total costs of the industry, and he thought producers would have welcomed the quality guarantee.

Australia which it claims also amount to export subsidies affecting sugar markets.

Australia refuses to discuss those practices saying that they are unconnected to its complaints, but, in a working party, a variety of countries may be directly involved in its row with the community. It may have to accept discussion of all factors affecting the sugar trade.

In accepting the wording of the compromise's last paragraph, Australia and Brazil have already opened the road for that. One of the Community's main allegations is that both these countries should bear as much responsibility for the current beet sugar glut as the Community because they, too, increased acreage considerably.

An enquiry panel set up by the council subsequently found that the EEC's export restitution system did create "uncertainty" on world sugar markets but said that damage to the interests of other exporters including Australia and Brazil could not be quantified. On the basis of the findings, the council asked the Community to make changes in its system.

The EEC argues that it has fulfilled all its obligations towards the council arising from the complaints because its new system of producers' co-responsibility ensures that producers, not EEC governments, pay for the export restitutions.

The Community has pugnaciously dug in its feet. It has drawn up a long list of practices in the U.S., Brazil and

them to export.

Both Australia and Brazil filed formal complaints with the council about 18 months ago alleging that the community subsidises sugar exports in violation of GATT rules because it reimburses beet sugar producers the difference between lower world prices and higher EEC prices to induce

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GATT SUGAR ROW

BY BRIJ KHANDARIA IN GENEVA

AUSTRALIA'S dogged harassment of the Common Market over the Community's system of sugar export subsidies has paid a first dividend in the world's trade watchdog body, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Very reluctantly the Community agreed last week to permit the creation of a new working party within GATT to continue study of Australia's long-standing complaint that the EEC subsidises sugar exports in a manner harmful to the interests of Australian and other exporters.

Other exporters say the EEC maintains that it has fulfilled its obligations, although both Australia and Brazil insist that their complaints against the Community have not yet been settled.

The working party, whose membership is open to all GATT members rather than to sugar exporters, will "conduct a review of the (sugar) situation and report to the council not later than March 1 1982."

Australia's victory may turn out to be a hollow one because discussion of the row will almost certainly be widened to considerations which could put Australia in the dock alongside the Community.

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The EEC argues that it has fulfilled

Companies and Markets

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Slump continues but noon fall of 29.4 in equity index finally reduced to 17.2—Gilts and Golds also weaken

Account Dealing Dates
Option
First Declared Last Account
Dealings Date
Sept 14 Sept 25 Oct 5
Sept 28 Oct 9 Oct 19
Oct 12 Oct 23 Oct 29
New-time dealings may take place from 9.30 am two business days earlier.

London equity markets suffered another major setback yesterday at the start of a new trading Account. At mid-day, leading shares were in free fall with the FT Industrial Ordinary share index recording a dramatic fall of 29.4, the heaviest inter-day loss ever recorded, apart from a special 2.30 assessment on March 1 1974, when the index was calculated some 32.8 lower.

However, a technical rally developed later and the index staged a welcome recovery on the back of a similar movement in early Wall Street trading to close a net 17.2 down at 487.5. This represents a drop of 95.9, or 17.3 per cent, since the Bank of England initiated a rise in interest rates just 11 days ago.

A gloomy weekend Press on world financial market trends coupled with overnight despondency in Far Eastern and Australian centres ensured a continuation of the downside here. An opening mark-down failed to deter professional liquidation and persistent nervous offerings from private investors.

Values slumped alarmingly with popular shares such as GEC down around 33, but this proved to be the lowest of the day. A subsequent rally followed by a U.S. prime rate reduction to 19 per cent began to develop. Lower opening Wall Street values checked the recovery for a while, but London subsequently fed off the U.S. market's later rally.

Although recent high-fliers in the Electrical sector were prominent casualties among leading industrials, falls stretching to 40 were recorded in some secondary issues. This widespread overall slump in values was measured by a fresh technical analysis of the Actuaries All-Share index of 4.7 per cent to 285.55.

Worries about the unabating pressures for higher short-term interest rates and concern about future Government funding took a toll on the gilt-edged market. Short- and long-dated stocks remained vulnerable, and revived selling in sensitive trading conditions brought fresh falls ranging to 14 before a late technical rally left net losses of a point.

The shorts closed around 1 easier, and the Government securities index down 0.86 from 60.45, moved nearer to a five-year low.

The Traded options market was understandably active and 3,408 deals were arranged, comprising 1,617 calls and 1,791 puts—only the second time that the latter have been in the majority. Lendro and Rascal attracted 478 and 545 puts respectively.

Banks rally late
Despite talk of a fresh hike soon in base lending rates, the major clearing banks were initially showing falls of up to 30. However, a later rally helped more than half the losses and Barclays ended 16 off at 382p, after 37p. Lloyds finished 13 down at 352p, after 34p, and Midland similarly easier at 292p, after 30p. NatWest dipped 10 to 345p, after 33p. Elsewhere, Bank of Scotland lost 12 to 385p and Royal Bank of Scotland 18 to 132p. The prospect of dearer money continued to depress Hire Purchases. FNFC fell a further 3 to 20p and Wagon Finance gave up a like amount at 37p. Cattle Holdings plummeted 4 to 14p and Provident Financial lost 8 to 95p.

Life issues were among the major casualties in Insurance. Mammoth Life ran back 31 to 322p and Pearl lost 18 to 368p. Composites rallied after-hours, but Sun Alliance still ended 40 lower at 785p, after 77p, and General Accident 20 down at 354p.

Leading Breweries rallied during after-hours trading but still retained falls to 7p. Sentiment in Wines and Spirits was not helped by forecasts of reduced sales in the latter half of 1981. The latter's share price fell 10 to 176p, while Arthur Bell gave up 4 at 110p; the latter's

annual results are expected today.

Buildings were thoroughly depressed at one stage, but selected leaders staged a modest late rally. Blue Circle dropped to 430p before closing 18 down at 430p, while Tarmac ended 19 off at 340p. Ready Mixed Concrete lost 21 to 155p ahead of today's interim results, while GRS Industries gave up 17 at 235p. News of a £12.5m Swiss contract failed to support Wimpey which shed 9 to 32p. Costain was prominent with a loss of 14 at 200p, as were Taylor Woodrow, which declined 30 to 480p. Fairclough Construction, 104p, Robert M. Douglas, 90p, and SGB, 120p, all shed 12, while Barnett and Hallamshire declined 100 to 800p.

After opening at 242p, KCI reacted to 234p, before rallying well close to 250p. Brent Chemicals gave up 7 to 93p despite increased interim profits.

Leading Stores rallied strongly during the afternoon. Gussies "A" down to 385p earlier, recovered to close 15 lower on balance at 370p, while JDS rallied to end unchanged at 64p, after 61p. House of Fraser, 134p, and W. H. Smith, 140p, remained at the lower levels, sustaining losses of 9 and 11 respectively. Secondary counters also displayed a slight recovery after-hours. Cornhill Diamonds ended 15 off at 98p, after 85p, while Polly Peck shed 28 to 197p, after 190p. Wearwell closed 9 down at 59p. Electrical retailers showed substantial falls, notably, Dobbies, 115p, and Plessey only 4 cheaper at 290p, after 287p; the latter has won a £30m contract to supply several thousand PVS-1410 VHF tank radios to the Middle East. Secondary issues collapsed. Farnell dropped 38 to 370p as did United Scientific, to 360p, while West Automotive shed 31 to 130p.

Marked strength in Halitite helped relieve the gloom in a depressed Engineering sector. Halitite jumped to 200p before closing 53 higher at 186p following a raid by stockbrokers. Laurin Millbank which acquired a near-15 per cent shareholding in the group, at 200p per share, for an undisclosed client. Elsewhere, renewed nervous selling

in an upwelling market brought fresh falls of up to 12 in the leaders.

Hawker fell that much to 262p, while GKN gave up 6 at 139p. As did Tubes, at 110p. Ahead of Thursday's interim figures, Vickers lost 5 at 141p, after 139p. Elsewhere, double-figure falls were commonplace. Eader fell 25 to 172p, Martonair 20 to 120p, and St. Faith 19 to 220p. A firm market last Friday on details of a £12.5m Indian steelworks order. Davy Corporation reacted 14 to 137p. Associated Dairies led the decline in Food Retailers, dropping to 144p before settling a net 10 down at 160p. J. Sainsbury shed 12 to 385p, Kwik Save 7 to 179p, and Bejam 8 to 10p. Other notable falls included United Biscuits, which declined 9 to 98p.

Renewed selling left the market on leading Hotels and Caterers where Grand Metropolitan shed 6 to 158p. Ladbroke, 119p, and Trusthouse Forte, 102p, both shed 7. Among secondary issues, Prince of Wales were particularly weak at 40p, down 17.

Misc. Inds. flat
Closing falls in miscellaneous Industrials ranged to 40, before rallying well close to 250p. Brent Chemicals gave up 7 to 93p despite increased interim profits. Leading Stores rallied strongly during the afternoon. Gussies "A" down to 385p earlier, recovered to close 15 lower on balance at 370p, while JDS rallied to end unchanged at 64p, after 61p. House of Fraser, 134p, and W. H. Smith, 140p, remained at the lower levels, sustaining losses of 9 and 11 respectively. Secondary counters also displayed a slight recovery after-hours. Cornhill Diamonds ended 15 off at 98p, after 85p, while Polly Peck shed 28 to 197p, after 190p. Wearwell closed 9 down at 59p. Electrical retailers showed substantial falls, notably, Dobbies, 115p, and Plessey only 4 cheaper at 290p, after 287p; the latter has won a £30m contract to supply several thousand PVS-1410 VHF tank radios to the Middle East. Secondary issues collapsed. Farnell dropped 38 to 370p as did United Scientific, to 360p, while West Automotive shed 31 to 130p.

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Motor Components succumbed to more persistent selling. Lucas ended 9 lower at 184p, after 181p, and Dowty similarly cheaper at 202p. Flight Refuelling shed 20 more to 260p, while Kwik-Fit declined 14 to 65p. In sharp contrast, Brown Brothers Amved 21 to 271p, still 21 below the revised cash offer terms from parent company Dana, which were announced late on Friday. Lots fell 6 to 20p.

Newspapers closed with sizeable falls across the board. Associated Book Publishers, interim Thursday, fell 38 to 260p, while the increased profits and dividend failed to support Link House, 15 cheaper at 199p.

Properties were one of the hardest hit sections on fears of a further rise in interest rates. The leaders, however, staged a useful late rally and Land Securities closed a net 8 cheaper at 260p, after 250p. MEPC reacted to 182p before settling 9 down on balance at 187p. Hammerson "A" ended 20 lower 500p and Haslemere Estates 24 off at 344p. Peachey, 117p, and Scottish Metropolitan, 90p, shed 7 apiece, while Slough Estates gave up 10 to 105p.

Oil reacted sharply initially but was comforted later by Wall Street trends and the leaders closed little changed on the day. British Petroleum finished just 2 cheaper on balance at 235p, after 340p, while Shell closed only 11 easier on balance at 314p. After 300p. The majority of secondary issues also staged a late recovery, but Berkeley Exploration remained depressed 2 to 13p. Australia's BHP fell

heavy selling and ended with falls extending to 53. Gresham House dropped that much to 185p, while losses of around 30 were sustained by Atlantic Assets, 30p, RTI, 29p, and Duvalist Capital, 420p.

Financials were similarly affected. Mercantile House, 310p, and Hicken Hume, 140p, fell 35 and 25 respectively. A \$23.50 fall in the bullion price to \$423 an ounce, heavy losses in other precious and base-metal prices and the general collapse of worldwide stock markets led to the mining market suffering one of its worst ever trading sessions.

South African Golds led the collapse with the Gold Mines ending dropping a record 44 to 394.3—its fourth successive decline and its lowest level since mid-August.

The lion's share of the selling came from London operators although heavy offerings were reported from the Continent and the U.S. The after-hours brought a minor respite but the market remained extremely nervous and volatile. The heavyweights sustained losses ranging to 53 and sometimes more, as in Vail Reef, £55, and "Amgold," £46. Financials mirrored the overall

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	Sept. 28	Sept. 29	Sept. 28	Sept. 29	Sept. 28	Sept. 29	Year ago
Government Secs.	60.45	61.11	61.28	60.10	62.55	62.83	68.74
Fixed Interest	61.94	62.76	63.28	60.45	64.13	64.13	71.98
Industrial Ord.	487.5	474.7	489.1	494.8	515.3	506.9	476.8
Gold Mines	354.3	398.3	401.8	411.0	410.3	401.1	497.0
Ord. Div. Yield	6.57	6.25	6.13	6.17	5.86	5.96	7.72
Earnings, Yld. 2 (full)	11.21	10.82	10.67	10.10	10.18	10.32	17.41
P/E Ratio (net %)	11.44	11.89	11.97	12.05	12.50	12.37	7.03
Total Gains	29,583	27,528	27,287	17,931	16,509	16,280	19,202
Equity turnover sm.	189.99	217.54	151.76	177.29	141.58	140.76	106.76
Equity bargains	33,999	24,728	14,633	14,655	16,829	16,829	

10 am 451.1. 11 am 452.8. Noon 445.3. 1 pm 447.6.
2 pm 460.4. 3 pm 452.7.
Latest Index 01-246 802S.
*Index = 101.16.

Base 100 Govt. Secs. 16/11/28. Fixed Int. 1928. Industrial Ord. 1/7/25. Gold Mines 12/8/55. SE Activity 1974.

HIGHS AND LOWS

	1981	Since Compil'n	1981	Since Compil'n
	High	Low	High	Low
Govt. Secs.	70.61	60.45	127.4	49.18
Fixed Int.	73.01	61.94	150.4	50.53
Ind. Ord.	597.3	487.5	194.0	49.4
Gold Mines	429.0	354.3	156.6	158.0

S.E. ACTIVITY

	1981	Since Compil'n	1981	Since Compil'n
	High	Low	High	Low
Govt. Secs.	70.61	60.45	127.4	49.18
Fixed Int.	73.01	61.94	150.4	50.53
Ind. Ord.	597.3	487.5	194.0	49.4
Gold Mines	429.0	354.3	156.6	158.0

trend with London stocks particularly vulnerable. Rio Tinto Zinc fell a net 22 to 480p, after a day's low of 435p and Gold Fields gave up 31 to 435p. In South Africans Anglo American Corporation showed a 60 decline at 700p and UC Invest-

ments lost a like amount to 600p. An initial mark-down of Australian, heavily sold in overnight Sydney and Melbourne markets, failed to deter London sellers. Jobbers reported widespread and persistent offerings throughout the day with closing prices easily the day's lowest.

Values slumped alarmingly with popular shares such as GEC down around 33, but this proved to be the lowest of the day. A subsequent rally followed by a U.S. prime rate reduction to 19 per cent began to develop. Lower opening Wall Street values checked the recovery for a while, but London subsequently fed off the U.S. market's later rally.

Although recent high-fliers in the Electrical sector were prominent casualties among leading industrials, falls stretching to 40 were recorded in some secondary issues. This widespread overall slump in values was measured by a fresh technical analysis of the Actuaries All-Share index of 4.7 per cent to 285.55.

Worries about the unabating pressures for higher short-term interest rates and concern about future Government funding took a toll on the gilt-edged market. Short- and long-dated stocks remained vulnerable, and revived selling in sensitive trading conditions brought fresh falls ranging to 14 before a late technical rally left net losses of a point.

The shorts closed around 1 easier, and the Government securities index down 0.86 from 60.45, moved nearer to a five-year low. The Traded options market was understandably active and 3,408 deals were arranged, comprising 1,617 calls and 1,791 puts—only the second time that the latter have been in the majority.

Lendro and Rascal attracted 478 and 545 puts respectively. Despite talk of a fresh hike soon in base lending rates, the major clearing banks were initially showing falls of up to 30. However, a later rally helped more than half the losses and Barclays ended 16 off at 382p, after 37p.

Lloyds finished 13 down at 352p, after 34p, and Midland similarly easier at 292p, after 30p. NatWest dipped 10 to 345p, after 33p. Elsewhere, Bank of Scotland lost 12 to 385p and Royal Bank of Scotland 18 to 132p.

The prospect of dearer money continued to depress Hire Purchases. FNFC fell a further 3 to 20p and Wagon Finance gave up a like amount at 37p. Cattle Holdings plummeted 4 to 14p and Provident Financial lost 8 to 95p.

Life issues were among the major casualties in Insurance. Mammoth Life ran back 31 to 322p and Pearl lost 18 to 368p. Composites rallied after-hours, but Sun Alliance still ended 40 lower at 785p, after 77p, and General Accident 20 down at 354p.

Leading Breweries rallied during after-hours trading but still retained falls to 7p. Sentiment in Wines and Spirits was not helped by forecasts of reduced sales in the latter half of 1981. The latter's share price fell 10 to 176p, while Arthur Bell gave up 4 at 110p; the latter's

annual results are expected today. Buildings were thoroughly depressed at one stage, but selected leaders staged a modest late rally. Blue Circle dropped to 430p before closing 18 down at 430p, while Tarmac ended 19 off at 340p.

Ready Mixed Concrete lost 21 to 155p ahead of today's interim results, while GRS Industries gave up 17 at 235p. News of a £12.5m Swiss contract failed to support Wimpey which shed 9 to 32p. Costain was prominent with a loss of 14 at 200p, as were Taylor Woodrow, which declined 30 to 480p.

Fairclough Construction, 104p, Robert M. Douglas, 90p, and SGB, 120p, all shed 12, while Barnett and Hallamshire declined 100 to 800p. After opening at 242p, KCI reacted to 234p, before rallying well close to 250p.

Brent Chemicals gave up 7 to 93p despite increased interim profits. Leading Stores rallied strongly during the afternoon. Gussies "A" down to 385p earlier, recovered to close 15 lower on balance at 370p, while JDS rallied to end unchanged at 64p, after 61p.

House of Fraser, 134p, and W. H. Smith, 140p, remained at the lower levels, sustaining losses of 9 and 11 respectively. Secondary counters also displayed a slight recovery after-hours. Cornhill Diamonds ended 15 off at 98p, after 85p, while Polly Peck shed 28 to 197p, after 190p.

Wearwell closed 9 down at 59p. Electrical retailers showed substantial falls, notably, Dobbies, 115p, and Plessey only 4 cheaper at 290p, after 287p; the latter has won a £30m contract to supply several thousand PVS-1410 VHF tank radios to the Middle East. Secondary issues collapsed. Farnell dropped 38 to 370p as did United Scientific, to 360p, while West Automotive shed 31 to 130p.

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Ahead of Thursday's interim figures, Vickers lost 5 at 141p, after 139p. Elsewhere, double-figure falls were commonplace. Eader fell 25 to 172p, Martonair 20 to 120p, and St. Faith 19 to 220p.

A firm market last Friday on details of a £12.5m Indian steelworks order. Davy Corporation reacted 14 to 137p. Associated Dairies led the decline in Food Retailers, dropping to 144p before settling a net 10 down at 160p.

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Index of Unit Trusts, etc. (a) (g)

1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 26

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BOLD

That's BTR

FT SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

LOANS

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
Public Board	100	100	100	100
and Ind.	100	100	100	100

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
Financial	100	100	100	100
Building Societies	100	100	100	100

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

AMERICANS

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

UNDATED

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

INT. BANK AND O'SEAS GOVT. STERLING ISSUES

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

CORPORATION LOANS

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

COMMONWEALTH AND AFRICAN LOANS

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

CANADIANS

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

BANKS AND HIRE PURCHASE

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS—Cont.

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

BUILDING, INDUSTRY, TIMBER AND ROADS

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

ELECTRICALS

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

ENGINEERING MACHINE TOOLS

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

DRAPERY AND STORES

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

FOOD, GROCERIES—Cont.

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.)

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

FOOD, GROCERIES—Cont.

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.)

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.)

Stock	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100
100% (Whole 14/20/11/12)	100	100	100	100

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OIL AND GAS—Continued

[illegible]



Tuesday September 29 1981



Oil prices 'may decline by 1986 in real terms'

By Martin Dickson, Energy Correspondent

SHEIKH Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, said yesterday that he hoped that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) would unify prices between now and the end of the year and would keep them fixed until the end of 1982.

He forecast that oil price rises until 1986 would probably not exceed the rate of inflation and that the price of oil might even fall in real terms.

His remarks came a month after Opec narrowly failed to reach agreement on a unified price structure during three days of talks in Geneva.

Sheikh Yamani, speaking at a conference in London, organised by the International Herald Tribune and Oil Daily, would not be drawn on the price level at which agreement might be obtained.

But he said Saudi Arabia refused to agree to anything which it had rejected at two Geneva conferences this year. On both occasions, the Saudis refused to countenance a price rise of more than \$2 from the nation's current level of \$32 a barrel.

Saudi Arabian output would come down when unification was achieved because of market forces, he said. The country has apparently cut production by 1m barrels a day, to about 9m b/d, from the start of this month as a gesture to other Opec members, many of whose sales had been hard hit by high Saudi production designed to force a price agreement.

Overall Opec production, Sheikh Yamani said, was now running at about 20m barrels b/d. This compares with some 26-27m b/d in 1980.

He predicted that Opec members' collective trade surplus could disappear by the end of 1983 if slack oil demand meant that their export earnings stagnated at the level of 1980.

If invisible imports and arms purchases were taken into account, it was not unlikely that the surplus would vanish a year earlier, at the end of 1982.

Sheikh Yamani's medium-term price predictions received some support from Dr Herman Franssen, chief economist at the International Energy Agency.

He said it was reasonable to suggest that real inflation-adjusted oil prices were likely to remain constant for the next few years or even slip below 1980 levels—provided there were no major additional disturbances in key oil-producing Gulf states.

But markets were then likely to tighten again.

Mitterrand backs Saudi plan, Page 2; BP trims price rises, Page 8

Murdoch lifts suspension

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER AND JOHN LLOYD

THE THREATENED suspension of all 4,000 employees of The Times and The Sunday Times was lifted last night by the papers' owner, Mr Rupert Murdoch, pending the outcome of a hastily-called meeting of print-union leaders today.

After the board meeting which decided to postpone suspension, Mr Murdoch said he would close the papers if work did not resume properly.

The Times failed to appear for the second time last night, following the non-appearance of the Sunday Times at the weekend because of a pay dispute involving 101 machine-minders.

Mr Murdoch said: "We have poured many millions of pounds into this company and are continually faced with threats by unions and chapels (office branches) who are not even dependent on this company for their sole income."

The future is bleak if we cannot rely on the chapels and these people to do a good day's

work for a very good day's pay. If nobody wants to work, or if they do not want to work sufficiently hard, then there is no way we can keep going."

Today's meeting of print-union general secretaries will be followed tomorrow by a meeting between them and Mr Murdoch.

The machine-minders belong to the National Graphical Association. Yesterday officials of the union from papers in Mr Murdoch's News International group—the Sun and the News of the World—met. They fully supported colleagues at Times Newspapers. It was decided, however, not to extend the dispute to the other papers.

Mr Bill Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, was in Brighton yesterday for the Labour Party conference. He said he feared News International was in grave financial difficulties and that liquidation of Times Newspapers could be

followed by the company's withdrawal from UK publishing.

The company stopped paying its 1,400 Sunday Times employees last Friday when the NGA refused to give Mr Murdoch the guarantee that production would proceed normally.

The machine-minders have put in a claim for pay and manning increases which the company says would add 28 per cent to the cost of employing them. Behind this claim lies a differentials problem. The pay of machine-assistants has risen from 80 per cent to 87.5 per cent of rates paid to machine-minders.

In spite of claims to the contrary, the pay dispute has become an inter-union battle between the NGA and the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel, representing machine-assistants.

Union leaders say suspension of the staff is an illegal act which breaches employment

contracts. They have considered taking legal action.

The possibility Mr Murdoch might cease to publish the two papers entirely however means the NGA could come under strong pressure from the other unions to back down.

Yesterday Mr Edward O'Brien, Natsopa assistant general secretary, said his members and those of a third union, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, were prepared to cross the picket lines set up by the NGA around the newspaper offices in Gray's Inn Road, London.

Print-union leaders attending the Labour conference accused Mr Tony Benn of interfering in the dispute.

Mr Benn, winding up the economic debate, had said the employees of the two papers should be supported although the papers published attacks on the working class.

Mr O'Brien said it was outrageous of Mr Benn to intervene in a pay differentials dispute.

Belgium steels itself for election

BY GILES MERRITT IN BRUSSELS

BELGIUM'S political crisis worsened yesterday as the country waited for a call for a general election in early November.

Mr Willy Claes, Economic Affairs Minister in the outgoing government, who was given the task of exploring a peace pact between the divided political parties, formally advised King Baudouin that there was no possibility of repairing the coalition split.

There are fears that an election could push the French-speaking Walloon community further towards secession and destroy the unity of the 150-year-old Belgium state.

A potentially divisive general

election cannot be averted and it is expected to be called for November 8.

The fear is that the voting will fail to resolve the deadlock that forced Mr Mark Eyskens, the Prime Minister, to resign a week ago, and will instead accentuate the rivalries and suspicions that separate Belgium's Dutch-speaking Flemish and French-speaking Walloon communities.

Belgian political analysts are concerned that the poll will strengthen Wallonia's regional government, and provide a blueprint for greater autonomy.

It is suggested that Walloon Socialists, frustrated by their

lack of success in Brussels coalitions, could win a dual mandate and positions of power at the top level of both national and regional government.

Last year's devolution of political powers, in which regional assemblies and administrative regions were set up for Flanders and Wallonia, was a compromise move by the former Premier Mr Wilfried Martens. It was intended to defuse community rivalry, but could now prove a catalyst for greater dissension.

The Walloon Parti Socialiste, whose refusal to accept heavy cuts in government spending and streamlining of Wallonia's

steel industry helped to precipitate the present crisis, might withdraw from national politics after the election.

The Socialists could dominate the purely Walloon local administration, leaving a political vacuum in Brussels which could leave any new national government without a clear mandate to govern Wallonia.

This latest crisis is characterised by greater community bitterness than usual, and concern that voters will strengthen their support for militant wings of the parties. The effect could be to block political moderates' chances of forming a workable coalition.

Nigeria to set up vehicle plants

BY MARK WEBSTER IN LAGOS AND TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS

THE NIGERIAN Government has announced plans to set up five commercial vehicle plants with Japanese and French involvement over the next two years.

Mr I. J. Igbani, the Minister of State for Industries, announced yesterday that four Japanese manufacturers would open up in Nigeria and that Peugeot of France, already a major car manufacturer, would be opening a second plant.

Mr Igbani stressed that the plants would concentrate on producing light commercial vehicles. Demand for these in Nigeria would reach 180,000 a year by 1990 and the five new plants should be able to cope with that demand.

The Japanese companies are Mitsubishi Motors, Toyo Kogyo,

Isuzu Motors and Nissan Motors, the Minister said.

It was not clear just how far advanced the plans for the new plants were. The Japanese manufacturers were not immediately available for comment, and Peugeot said yesterday it had only gone on to a short list for further consideration in the plans to widen the industry in Nigeria.

The French company said it had submitted proposals for a project involving construction of its light 2-3 tonne vans. Its car assembly operation in the northern part of the country assembled about 40,000 units a year.

Peugeot said it has received no indication of when a final decision would be made. It added that it was unsure

whether the Nigerians intended to concentrate on a single light commercial vehicle manufacturer for the development of the industry, or whether a number of overseas companies would be chosen.

In his statement, the Minister said the agreements would be signed soon. Incentives would be provided for the companies concerned but the federal government would not participate in the projects.

Mr Igbani said it was a government objective to locate the new plants throughout the country.

Along with Peugeot, at present in Nigeria, BL of the UK manufactures Land Rovers and trucks and Steyr of Austria and Mercedes of West Germany produce goods vehicles.

Shipbuilding strike has 80% support

By John Lloyd, Labour Correspondent

TRADE UNIONS in British Shipbuilders yesterday succeeded in calling out about 80 per cent of their 88,000 members on a one-day national strike in protest over the closure of the Robb Caledon yard in Dundee—a higher total than even they expected.

British Shipbuilders warned last night that a continuation of the industrial action—which involves one-day strikes every Monday and a complete overtime ban—would involve immediate lay-offs in ship repair yards, and that "permanent job losses in ship repair would certainly follow."

Ship repair yards are particularly vulnerable to overtime bans because of a dependence on overtime working. The company said customers would switch orders for ship repair work immediately on hearing of industrial action.

According to BS, about 12,500 workers of a total workforce of 88,000 reported for work and worked normally. Small numbers of pickets were in place at most yards, but there were no reported incidents. About 8,500 workers, mainly in Scottish yards are on holiday.

The shipbuilding negotiating committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions will meet tomorrow to review the position at Brighton where most of the union officials are attending the Labour Party conference.

Union officials said last night that, of the company's yards, only Vickers in Barrow and Vospers in Portsmouth had registered low responses to the strike call. Vickers said most of its 13,000 workforce worked normally, though members of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union had struck and caused some disruption of work.

The BS warning of further layoffs and redundancies was coupled with a reaffirmation of its refusal to reconsider the closure of the Robb Caledon yard, announced in July, where 150 workers are staging a sit-in to prevent it being closed.

The prospective buyer of the yard, Kestrel Marine, has not yet committed itself to a firm bid. It has held a number of talks with officials from the Scottish Office and the Scottish Development Agency to try to determine what level of aid it could expect if it took over the yard to extend its capacity for oil platform fabrication.

The Scottish Office said last night that it had met Kestrel late last week, but that the company had not yet presented any written plan of its intentions for the yard.

THE LEX COLUMN

Harsh lesson in equity risk

Index fell 17.2 to 457.5

After one of the most violent shake-outs on record in European and Far Eastern equity markets, the comparative resilience of Wall Street in yesterday morning's session offered some hope that the worst may now be over. In the London market, the FT 30-share index closed a mere 17.2 lower, after recording a drop of 28.4 at noon. But despite the 1-point cut in Continental Illinois' prime rate, Eurodollar deposit rates were about half a point firmer. With stock markets all round the world focusing on the cost of money, portfolio managers must still be apprehensive.

While the worst of the adjustment may now be over, interest rates remain very high. At the long end U.S. bonds opened a point or more weaker. In the UK the trend in gilt-edged was similarly poor, with falls across the board; at the shorter end, although the Bank of England was up to its old tricks in massaging down the one-week rate—thus reducing the attractions of round-tripping—the danger of a further rise in bank base rates is still very real.

No major stock market was spared yesterday. The fall in Tokyo was the worst on record and Frankfurt sustained the biggest drop since 1973. Volume on most markets was higher than last week but, with buyers in such short supply, it was nowhere near record levels.

The scope, and speed, of the collapse reinforces how the more international horizons of fund managers have linked stock markets together. The heaviest losses in Tokyo yesterday were incurred by the electrical blue chip and office equipment companies which foreigners were buying heavily last year. The same applied to Australian resource shares.

The strongest performers of the recent international bull market were long-term capital growth stocks, principally in the energy and technology sectors. With the emphasis now apparently shifting to income returns, they have been among

the most severe casualties in the past week.

The same criterion has been applied to the bullion markets, which were once looked upon as a store of value when paper instruments were tumbling. But yesterday, markets were looking for income and the gold price fell 82.3 in London from Friday's close to finish at \$422. Gold mining shares fared even worse.

The FT Actuaries All-Share Index has now dropped by 21.1 per cent from its peak in August. This begins to rival the extent of the sharp drop in the autumn of 1976, although of course it is nothing like as severe as protracted decline seen in 1973-74. What has given the current set-back a special flavour, however, has been its unprecedented sharpness and suddenness, which is bound to leave its scars.

Thus heavy selling from private investors has been a key feature of the present market setback, and to judge by the unhappy noises coming from the unit trust groups, there has indeed been a dramatically sudden change in sentiment in the last few days. In the first eight months of this year, net new investment in unit trusts totalled nearly £400m, comfortably more than the total for the whole of 1980. Last month's purchases were a record for August. Investment trusts, too, have been making new issues on a scale not seen for years.

A lot of the new money was going overseas, especially in the early part of the year, and it seems that quite a number of people were buying units who had not done so previously.

Higher charges enabled the management groups to step up their marketing activity and five years of steadily rising share prices had helped to obliterate the painful memories of what had happened to equity prices

in 1974, after a promotional spurge in the preceding years. But unit holders have now again been made painfully aware that prices can go down as well as up. Some of the sellers have clearly been scarred by past memories. For others, including those who have apparently put some of their redundancy money into the stock market, this is the first experience of what equity risk means. It is not surprising that they have been rushing to protect their position.

Meanwhile, the market's reversal must be wreaking havoc among the celebrated rights issue queue, reckoned to stretch until December. Merchant bankers yesterday, however, were finding one crumb of comfort: a short sharp fall should be better than many months of gentle drift and uncertainty.

Hanson/Berec

In the middle of yesterday's morning shakeout the share price of Berec briefly dipped below the 105p cash offer from Hanson Trust, but a speculative foray by Hanson's brokers Hoare Govett apparently failed to dislodge many shares and the price closed back out of Hanson's reach at 107p. A more likely occasion for a successful market raid is likely to come, of course, after the extraordinary meeting of Hanson's shareholders to approve the bid on Thursday; hence Berec's decision to rush out its main defence circular even before Hanson has dispatched its formal offer document.

At least Berec is able to forecast a modest recovery in pre-tax profits in the current year from £10m to £14m, and will restore the dividend after last year's cut. However, it wastes too much space on claims that Hanson can do nothing for Berec. With the market collapse coming at a cruel time, Berec will be lucky indeed to retain its independence now, though the questions of who will buy and at what price remain to be resolved.

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Weather

UK TODAY

MAINLY DRY and bright. Rain later. Temperatures near normal.

London, most of England, N. Wales, L.M., Ireland. Dry. Bright becoming cloudy. Rain later. Max. temp. 16C (61F).

Channell, S.W. England, S. Wales. Cloudy. Rain spreading from West. Max. temp. 16C (61F).

N.E. England, most of Scotland. Dry. Sunny periods. Max. temp. 16C (61F).

N.E. and N.W. Scotland. Orkney, Shetland. Showers, becoming dry. Sunny periods. Max. temp. 14C (57F).

Outlook: Unsettled. Temperatures near or above normal.

WORLDWIDE

	Y'day	Y'day		Y'day	Y'day
	midday	midday		midday	midday
Algeria	17	63	Locarno	17	54
Algiers	17	63	London	17	63
Amman	16	61	Madrid	17	63
Athens	16	61	Moscow	17	63
Bahia	16	61	Munich	17	63
Barcelona	16	61	Naples	17	63
Bombay	16	61	Norwich	17	63
Buenos Aires	16	61	Oslo	17	63
Calcutta	16	61	Paris	17	63
Cairo	16	61	Perth	17	63
Cardiff	16	61	Prague	17	63
Cebu	16	61	Rabat	17	63
Chengdu	16	61	Rome	17	63
Cologne	16	61	Sao Paulo	17	63
Copenhagen	16	61	Seoul	17	63
Corfu	16	61	Stockholm	17	63
Darwin	16	61	Sydney	17	63
Dublin	16	61	Taipei	17	63
Dunfermline	16	61	Tokyo	17	63
Edinburgh	16	61	Toronto	17	63
Faro	16	61	Ulaanbaatar	17	63
Florence	16	61	Valencia	17	63
Frankfurt	16	61	Vancouver	17	63
Geneva	16	61	Warsaw	17	63
Gibraltar	16	61	Wellington	17	63
Glasgow	16	61	Zurich	17	63
Gosport	16	61			
Hong Kong	16	61			
Hull	16	61			
Inverness	16	61			
Istanbul	16	61			
Jersey	16	61			
Limassol	16	61			
Lisbon	16	61			
Liverpool	16	61			
London	16	61			
Lyon	16	61			
Manchester	16	61			
Maracaibo	16	61			
Medan	16	61			
Memphis	16	61			
Mexico City	16	61			
Mombasa	16	61			
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Tokyo	16	61			
Toronto	16	61			
Ulaanbaatar	16	61			
Valencia	16	61			
Vancouver	16	61			
Warsaw	16	61			
Wellington	16	61			
Zurich	16	61			

Shares drop Continued from Page One

Like GEC and ICI, had fallen heavily by noon, many market professionals identified the main weight of selling with "second-line" stocks, generally companies with a market capitalisation of less than £100m.

A noted preponderance of small sell orders "We could see brokers walking around the market floor with long lists of them," said one jobber—suggested widespread unloading of positions by private investors rather than institutional sellers.

There were signs of heavy redemptions by unit trust investors. Some managers admitted they were "inundated by sellers" and most had to recalculate their bid and offer prices during the day. But money put on a brave face and claimed only a marginal increase in redemptions.

"An anxious day but by no means a rout," Mr Mark St

Giles, chairman of the Unit Trust Association, said last night.

The afternoon's rally, when it came, "set the leaders against the rest," said one broker. Selling continued in second-line stocks. But selective buying by the institutions lifted leading stocks as the afternoon wore on.

Wall Street even helped steady the London market. An initial fall of 13 points in the first half-hour was no more than London expected, and probably rather less. The two markets seemed reassured by this.

In addition to Wall Street's mid-session recovery, there was some reassurance nearer home yesterday from Mr Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange.

Denying any parallel with the crisis of 1974, when the FT industrial Ordinary index was

down at one stage to 146, he expressed confidence in Britain's industrial outlook and thought yesterday's selling overdone.

David Marsh in Washington writes: Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, does not intend to oppose any upward move in UK interest rates resulting from the present turbulence on world financial markets.

Sir Geoffrey, who is attending the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington, believes that rising money rates on the London market and the collapse of share prices in the last few days are largely due to uncertainties in the U.S. about the size of the American Budget deficit.

His view is that if market pressures are taking interest rates up, then the market must have its way.

Gain by dollar Continued from Page One

have a major impact on the